MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

The Knesset ratified Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's shift from the Defense Ministry to minister without portfolio by a 61-56 vote, Jerusalem radio announced. Earlier, the radio noted that Sharon does not intend to ask Prime Minister Menahem Begin to assign him any specific job or function. In a meeting with a European Parliament delegation, Begin said that personnel changes in the Cabinet would not influence the peace process, the radio reported. The prime minister stressed that Israel would not stop building settlements in the territories, would never accept the notion of a Palestinian state, and would not negotiate with the PLO. Affirming that the Camp David accords are the only path for negotiations in the Middle East, Begin attacked the Reagan plan and criticized the European Parliament's decision to support it, the radio added.

In interviews with Jerusalem television and radio, Defense Minister-designate Moshe Arens said there is "quite a good chance" of reaching an agreement with the Lebanese on relations. He said that talks could include Israel's willingness to withdraw from Lebanon, adding that it is "not at all clear" whether the Syrians will be prepared to evacuate Lebanon at the same time. Asked whether he regards U.S. involvement in the Lebanese negotiations positively, Arens reaffirmed U.S. Israeli common goals and said the United States can help but that does not mean it will always help. He reiterated support for Begin's policy and denied that Sharon's presence in the Cabinet presented any difficulty.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- Progress was made during the 14 February subcommittee talks in Khaldah, Jerusalem radio reported citing Israeli sources. The subcommittees completed drafting the main clauses on ending the state of war but differences remained over early warning stations and the future of UNIFIL troops in the security areas, the sources added. A statement by the Lebanese Information Ministry braodcast by Beirut radio announced that the subcommittee meetings will resume on 17 February in Netanya.

Military, Security Situation -- Leader of the "free Lebanon army" Major Sa'd Haddad has established a garrison in Sidon to "restructure" his army, AFP reported. Haddad declared that the borders of the "free Lebanon" state now extend from An-Naqurah to Sidon and that the garrison in Sidon means that the "free Lebanon army" has assumed responsiblity for southern Lebanon's security, according to AFP. An earlier Jerusalem radio report said Haddad moved tanks and armored troop carriers into Sidon because he wanted to help the Lebanese Government extend its authority over the whole country.

President Amin al-Jumayyil deployed three Lebanese Army brigades in the greater Beirut area on 15 February, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The president emphasized that the army is the party of the people and comprises all factions. Al-Jumayyil added that the army must carry out its duty because Lebanon alone can fend for itself, the radio noted. Earlier, an additional 160 French marines for the multinational force arrived in Beirut.

Arab-UK Relations

The Arab seven-member committee's visit to London may be officially canceled because of the British Government's "stubborn" position and its refusal to accept a PLO representative within the committee, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing highly placed sources in Riyadh. The sources did not rule out the possibility of collective Arab sanctions against Britain in the near future, especially in the economic field, the radio added.

Palestine National Council Session

Addressing the opening session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum declared that the Reagan peace proposal neither meets the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people nor forms a clear basis for resolving the Palestine question because it disregards both the right to self-determination and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Al-Fahum declared the PLO's "open rejection" of America's peace illusions based on the Camp David accords and asked the United States "to prove its credibility."

In another speech broadcast by Algiers radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated that the "choice" to establish a confederation with Jordan is a genuine expression of the PLO's belief in comprehensive Arab unity. He added that the PLO rejects anything that harms the national rights of the Palestinian people and that the joint Palestinian-Lebanese stand against the United States is especially important because of the challenges presented by "U.S. imperialism and Zionism." The PLO leader said armed struggle goes hand in hand with political struggle; the United States must not forget that Lebanon "will not be the last war."

Cheysson Tour

During a Baghdad news conference French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said France will redouble its efforts at the United Nations to end the Gulf war, INA reported. Cheysson noted that French-Iraqi cooperation is an important factor for the attainment of peace and affirmed that French companies will continue to honor their contracts in Iraq. Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at the same news conference declared that Iraq can continue to defend its territory without French military assistance, INA added. Later, Cheysson arrived in Damascus and met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Damascus television. A French diplomatic source cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that French-Syrian talks will focus on Iraqi-Syrian relations, the closure of the Iraqi pipelines via Syria to the Mediterranean, and the situation in Lebanon.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak and Sudan's President Ja'far Numayri held talks in Aswan on the results of integration efforts, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iraq-Iran conflict, MENA reported.

Syria

A joint statement issued in Damascus on the 9-13 February talks between the Ba'th Party and a Cuban Communist Party delegation stressed the desire to promote bilateral relations and announced the signing of a new agreement on cooperation between the two parties, SANA reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 032 *15 February 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Palestine National Council Session Begins in Algiers A 1
Khalid al-Fahum Address A 1
Chedli Klibi Speech A 3
Yasir 'Arafat Address A 4
Chadli Bendjedid Speech A 9
Al-Fahum Reelected Speaker A 11
USSR, DPRK, SRV Delegations A 11
KUNA: UK Note to Saudis Contained Nothing New A 11
Radio Monte Carlo Report A 11

OPEC AFFAIRS

Saudi Oil Minister on Price Crisis, OPEC B 1
Iranian Official on Geneva OPEC Conference [AFP] B 2

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Minister on Stoppage of Saudi Crude Oil [AL-ADWA' 12 Feb] C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Source Denies Oil Price Cut, Increased Output C 1

IRAQ

Hammadi Confers With Secretary of State Shultz E 1
Jordan's King Husayn Leaves After Short Visit E 1
France's Cheysson Holds Talks, Meets Newsmen E 1
Meeting With Saddam Husayn E 1
Ramadan, Cheysson Comments E 2
Cheysson Press Conference E 3
Communique No 1,000 on 13-14 Feb Operations E 4
President Grants Amnesty to Deserters E 4

JORDAN

King Husayn Receives France's Cheysson F 1
Cheysson Television Interview F 1
Amman Reports Husayn's Return From Baghdad F 2
Husayn Receives Pakistani Foreign Minister F 2

LEBANON

Reportage on U.S. Envoy Habib's Meetings G 1
Al-Jumayyil Reviews U.S. Proposals G 1
Salim Receives Habib G 1
Salim-Habib Discussions G 2
Habib to Israel G 2
Pierre al-Jumayyil on Habib [Radio Free Lebanon] G 2
Negotiations Round Begins in Khaldah 14 Feb G 3
Session Ends; Subcommittees Convene G 4
Subcommittee Meetings Recess G 4
Subcommittee Meetings Resume G 5
Meetings End; Statement Issued G 5
Information Ministry Delegate on Israel Talks G 6
AFP: Haddad Explains Movement of Troops in Sidon G 7
Salim Discusses Talks With Israel, Policy G 8
AFP: EEC May Act on Palestinians' Safety G 16
Cabinet Charges Army With Maintaining Security G 17
'Greater Beirut' Army Deployment Reported G 17

SYRIA

Khaddam Welcomes French External Relations Minister H 1
Radio Monte Carlo on Visit H 1
Khaddam Confers With Cheysson H 1

ISRAEL

Talks With Lebanon Resume in Khaldah 14 Feb I 1
Session Ends; Progress Noted I 1
Begin, Peres Address 14 February Knesset Session I 2
Further on Debate I 2
Knesset Approves Sharon Transfer 61 to 56 I 3
Defense Minister-Designate Arens Interviewed I 4
On U.S. Attitudes, Lebanon I 5
Initial Reaction to Arens Appointment Noted I 7
15 Feb Editorials I 7
Sharon Will Not Ask Begin for Specific Job I 8
Peres Lauds Army Reaction to Commission Findings I 8
'Thousands' Demonstrate Against Lebanon Occupation I 8
MA'ARIV Sees Change in Egyptian Position [13 Feb] I 8

EAST AFRICA

UGANDA

UN Secretary General Speaks in Kampala R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Head of State Reshuffles Cabinet 10 Feb S 1

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Rawlings Address on Nigerian Deportees 11 Feb T 1
Accra Announces Military Exercise in Progress T 4

GUINEA

Sekou Toure To Make Produce Marketing Private T 4

LIBERIA

Agriculture Minister's Death Confirmed T 5

NIGER

Kountche: 83,000 Nationals Return From Nigeria T 5

NIGERIA

Registration of Aliens Begins 14 February T 5
100 Illegal Immigrants Rounded up in Oyo T 6
Departure of Aliens Opens 5,000 Port Jobs T 6
Police Move In, Order University Vacated T 6

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Government Reports Killing 21 UNITA Members U 1

LESOTHO

Government Holds RSA Responsible for Blast U 1
Sends Protest Note U 1

NAMIBIA

Windhoek Newspaper Suspended for Contempt [Umtata] U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Rejects Lesotho's Claims on Blast U 2
Paper: Labor Party To Form 'Military Wing' U 3
[RAND DAILY MAIL 14 Feb]
Meetings Will Not Be Publicized U 3

SWAZILAND

Parliament Reportedly Suspended Indefinitely U 4
[Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL 15 Feb]

ZIMBABWE

Confessions of Alleged RSA Spies Released [Johannesburg] U 4

PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION BEGINS IN ALGIERS

Khalid al-Fahum Address

LD142012 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Speech by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council and chairman of the PLO Central Council, at 16th Palestine National Council session in Algiers -- live]

[Excerpt] Brothers, the 16th session is held in the shadow of complex Arab circumstances. They became more complex and more serious with the Zionist aggression against Lebanon. This aggression revealed that the expansionist Zionist plot has entered a new stage, which was flagrantly manifested by the fact that the Zionist invasion forces, in full view of the world and in the presence of international and multinational forces, entered the capital of an independent Arab state after occupying half the territory of that state under a flimsy pretext, namely, to protect the northern settlements in Galilee, and after committing mass murders and massacres in Tyre, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Sabra, and Shatila and clearly surpassing what the Nazis did to the Jews and others in World War II. We add to this the use of all the modern American weapons. It is as though the Lebanese and the Palestinians in Beirut and the south were guineapigs for the new American weapons after the proving grounds in heroic Vietnam were closed.

Our fighters fought most gallantly against them. If the Lebanese war proved that the ambitions of the Zionist enemy have no limits and do not accept any consideration, it also proved that our people, when they are given the opportunity to fight, become an example of heroism, courage, and ability to confront.

Brothers, we say that the Palestinian and Arab fervor during the invasion provided the Arab nation with a golden opportunity to prove its existence and put some of its words into practice. However, the Arab silence around the besieged revolution and around the people who were exposed to extinction was overwhelming and heartless. It contradicted the laws of history and nature. It was not even possible for the Arabs to meet at the Fes conference until after the end of the siege and the departure of the Palestinian revolution from Beirut, after the Zionist forces had the upper hand, and after the introduction of a multinational force which took orders from the United States, which engineered the aggression and which is its protector and financier.

Despite all that happened, the PLO said that Arab unanimity in Fes was in itself a positive sign and a basis for any Arab political move. Is every Arab country destined to await its turn at occupation? At the last Palestine National Council [PNC] session we talked about the need to secure Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. Today we are talking about the withdrawal of the invading forces from Lebanon; we do not know what will happen tomorrow.

Let every Arab in the east, west, north, or south know that his fate is tied up in the comprehensive plot by Zionist-U.S. aggression and that delay and complacency only give the enemy the chance to destroy us gradually instead of having to face us as one bloc. That would be impossible for it.

Brother members of the PNC, as usual, at this 16th session members who represent the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland and elsewhere meet with comrades in struggle who face one of the most arduous stages yet of the Palestinian revolution.

The heroism of our people is spontaneous and stems from a blazing faith and firm conviction. Their sacrifices are a constant flood of purity. They give repeatedly without complaining or grumling. Therefore, let us first reaffirm to our great people that we are faithful to our pledge and committed to the Charter and resolutions of our National Council.

We are proud of the democratic work of the revolution; we are optimistic despite all that has happened and we, like our people, will not tire of struggle. We are moving on the path of victory and liberation.

Let us reaffirm again to our people and the world, as we have done before in the revolution, that we are a united Palestinian Arab people. We are the sons of one revolution and one united liberation organization. It is proud to examine any existing differences, but it rejects divisions. We hold meetings to achieve a progressive form of national unity in every session of the council. If there has been an opening for disengagment from relentless commitment to this noble objective, the reality of the revolution today does not tolerate any delay. Let us reaffirm, as we have done every time, that we are holding on to our right and to international legitimacy and that we are fighting for peace based on justice.

We would like all international forces to participate in the peace-making process under UN auspices and on the basis of its Charter and its resolutions. Let us reaffirm that we are committed to our right to self-determination in our liberated land, our right to return to our homes and properties, and our right to establish an independent Palestinian state on our national soil. We are committed to the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories. The PLO will not relinguish its role to any party and will not delegate anybody to speak in its name or on its behalf.

Let us declare our open rejection of the deceitful U.S. peace illusions based on the Camp David accords. President Reagan's plan does not meet the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and does not form a clear basis for resolving the question of Palestine and the Arab-Zionist conflict. It aims at obliterating the question of Palestine by disregarding the right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and by disregarding the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Let us tell the United States that it cannot be the adversary and the referee at the same time and that the military, financial, and political backing which it is rendering to the Zionist entity is the cause of the aggression and the guarantee of its continuation.

Let us demand immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and let us demand that the United States prove its credibility, if only once. Let us assure the great Lebanese people and their national and progressive forces [applause] that we are in the same trench against the Zionist-imperialist aggression and against any plots being hatched against them.

Let us remind our Arab nation that we are from it and for it and that our revolution is the revolution of all Arabs, and that it is high time to confront the enemy with a united Arab front free of division and dispute.

We are strong, brothers, and the main game which Zionism and imperialism are playing is to prevent us from combining our strength. We have friends and allies in the world which no other revolution in the world has ever had before. They extend along the front of freedom, peace, socialism, nonalignment, and national liberation. The genuine world, the world of peoples, stands by us. The socialist countries, led by the friendly Soviet people [applause], stand with us in the same file and expect us to carry on with our struggle because our struggle is a part of the world revolution against imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

In conclusion, brothers, on your behalf I convey greetings of appreciation and admiration to our steadfast Arab people who are resisting the enemy in the occupied land, in Palestine [applause], in the Golan Heights, and in Lebanon. I pledge to them that we shall continue the struggle until we cleanse the land and restore right and dignity.

Long live the struggle of our Palestinian people everywhere! Long live the struggle of our Arab people! Long live Palestine -- free, Arab, and independent!

Chedli Klibi Speech

LD142322 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1706 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Speech by Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, at 16th session of PNC in Algiers -- live]

[Excerpts] Your meeting today is a serious turning point in the history of the Palestinian revolution and the march of Arab struggle. The many meanings of your meeting include the affirmation that the Palestinian revolution is a constantly developing revolution, despite all attempts by the enemy to strike at it; it also includes the affirmation that this revolution today is capable more than ever before of confronting the most serious and most responsible phases.

Brothers, the work of this session derives its special importance from the interaction of several Arab factors and regional and international circumstances. This session is being held in the wake of the savage invasion of Lebanon, with all its consequences, and particularly the following: First, the invasion proved that the aggressive Israeli behavior has gone beyond all limits ever envisaged in the political concept for this region. This took place in a series of aggressions in all directions with which a new phase in the policy of expanding the area of aggression and domination began. This destroyed the difference that used to exist among us regarding the confrontation and supporting states. It made the Israeli danger, under the Camp David auspices, move against whatever is Arab -- man, people, and land -- without discriminating between what is near and what is far, or between what is described as moderate and what is described as extremist.

The second consequence of the Lebanese war is that the Palestinian revolution emerged from it more cohesive in rank than ever before, and more convinced of its leadership, which fought from the frontlines and heroically stood its ground, and reaffirmed that the crusade of the fighters in Lebanon and those who stood their ground during the siege of Beirut was the crusade of those who are anxious to live, of those who defend rights, of those who reject submission, and those who deserve freedom and dignity.

Brothers, the work of this session follows the Sabra and Shatila massacre, which exposed to the whole world in an unprecedented manner the inhumane methods which the Zionist movement has adopted. What is the meaning of the democracy which today they are boasting about if it could not prevent terrorists from staying in power? What is the meaning of this so-called democracy which permits the violation of international law and human values on which world civilization is based? Sharon and his ilk are (?the products) of Israeli society which can only live on violence to consolidate its existence. South Africa is a democratic state, too, in the same sense. Its false democracy did not prevent it from being harsh and unjust toward the African masses.

Israel is a backward ideological entity because it is based on racial and religious discrimination and on the selfishness manifested in denying the peoples' right to freedom and dignity. But this backward entity uses modern and developed equipment manufactured by it or given to it by a superpower which, by doing this, denies Wilson's principles and international law, in whose name you are fighting, because you are fighting for a just cause without weapons save your belief, sacrifice, and patience.

Brothers, your National Council is being convened after the 12th Arab summit conference which declared what has become known as the Arab peace plan. The Fes summit closed one of the outlets in the international arena which the Israeli enemy and its supporters used to infiltrate on the pretext that the Zionist leaders are advocates of peace and security. The Fes summit came out with a unanimous Arab (?decision) which clearly defined the meaning of peace and its [word indistinct] and the responsibilities this peace places on the international community. The Beirut battle proved the revolutionary capability of your decisions and moves which proved that your method of struggle is not to submit to the shameful reality which the Israeli enemy tried to impose on you.

Brothers, we know that you are being called upon by many sides at this critical stage to follow a realistic path in facing the current circumstances, especially following your departure from Beirut. If the realism you are required to follow means submission to faits accomplis and to Israel's will, then this means the liquidation of the revolution, the PLO, and the Palestinian issue and it means enabling Israel to spread its domination over all Arabs. This we all reject; no Arab can ever accept this. [applause] No one should advise you to accept any kind of realism if it opposes the movement of history and the principles of your blessed revolution. [applause] Therefore, the message of the crusade requires that you listen to the voice of your own conscience -- your living conscience alone.

In this connection I cannot but reaffirm that the Arab League Secretariat General is totally prepared, by virtue of its own comprehensive pan-Arab responsibilities and by virtue of a personal commitment I am proud of, to place its capabilities and efforts at your disposal without any reservation. The Secretariat General, acting on guidelines of Arab summit conferences, will continue to work at all levels in order to participate in the creation of an international atmosphere suitable for winning the battle while continuing to support your revolution and to consolidate your organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Brother President, before concluding my address, I would like to express greetings to the great Arab people in our dear Egypt [applause], admiring their struggle [applause], admiring their continuous and tireless struggle for the sake of the fateful issue and their effort to put this issue in its comprehensive pan-Arab framework. We are concerned for and insist on the return of Egypt, with all its effectiveness in the Arab arena, to the Arab fold [prolonged applause], as this will put right a strategic (?malfunction) within the unified Arab forces. This concern is no less than that expressed by our brothers among the Egyptian people. We are confident that Arab Egypt can overcome temporary obstacles preventing its support for the Palestinian people's cause and revolution and Arab issues in general.

Yasir 'Arafat Address

LD142004 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1734 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at PNC session in Algiers -- live]

[Text] To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight because they have been wronged; and truly God is most powerful for their aid. They are those who have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right, for no cause except that they say, our Lord is God. [quotation from Koran]

Your Excellency Mr President, brother honored guests, brother members: From the mountain of fire to the Aures mountains, from the fighters of the Palestinian revolution and the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces to the free men of Algeria, from the burning cauldron which erupted like a volcano in steadfast Beirut, and from the Lebanon of the fierce battle, Lebanon the miracle, to the brothers and beloved ones -- comrades of the march of destiny -- the single destiny in Algeria of 1.5 million martyrs, we bring a salute of esteem, pride, and dignity. [applause]

Brother President, my deep commitment bears the pledge and the vow that the struggle will continue until the aims of our Arab nation are achieved. It will continue so that its domain is protected. This commitment, Brother President, is a manifestation of your struggling and heroic people in fraternal Algeria, the people of the 1 November revolution and their brothers in the 1 January revolution. This commitment is based on deep conviction and pan-Arab nobility and the revolutionary reunion which has driven and still drives our revolution in strength and gallantry to continue our militant road and our armed revolution until we achieve our firm national rights which are not open to disposal, including our right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state on our national Palestinian soil [applause] and until our fluttering banners are raised over holy Jerusalem, capital of our independent Palestine, and over its minarets and over its churches and over its walls.

Brother President, brother guests, brother members, our PNC is convened in these difficult and grave times through which our Arab nation is passing in the shadow of the fateful challenges to our civilization as an Arab nation, and not only as a Palestinian revolution and not as joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces, but as an Arab nation. It is a question of to be or not to be, in the shadow of the U.S. imperialist-Zionist onslaught whose nails and daggers pierce the body of our Arab nation. It tries to spread its domination over our entire Arab nation; it tries to control our resources and tries to annex us to its sphere of influence.

Here is the importance of the posture, the mighty posture displayed by the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces, and the steadfastness which they continue to display in their confrontation of this all-embracing American onslaught. In the same vein is the unequalled steadfastness of our joint forces and our militant masses in face of the Israeli military operation, fully paid for by the United States, by the racist military clique in the Zionist invasion army, in order to commit these barbarous crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. These crimes reached the summit of barbarism and savagery as is clear from the massacres and butchery in the Sabra and Shatila camps after the gallant fighters of the joint forces had destroyed the arrogance and pomposity of the enemy and turned him back [words indistinct].

Your fighters stood fast in Beirut. Your masses stood fast in Beirut. Your nation stood fast by you in Beirut in the face of untiring attempts by the United States to exhaust the entire Arab nation [words indistinct] and kneel before the aggressors, the Zionist invaders and the U.S. imperialists. In 88 days the pride of our contemporary Arab history [words indistinct] Arab human being. It stood fast in the face of technological supremacy and challenged the superior and sophisticated U.S. military machine.

The fighters and masses in Beirut took their historic decision to confront this aggressor, who fired by day and by night, from land, sea, and air, using all kinds of weapons -- American weapons of death and destruction, even those which are internationally banned -- some of which, as you know, he used for the first time. The bodies of our children and women were test grounds for these criminal weapons.

Brother President, friends, brothers, by standing fast in Beirut a new phase began in our Arab history. Israel's blitzkrieg wars and its imaginary blitzkrieg victories have ended forever in the face of your mujahidin brothers who have died as martyrs for the existence and dignity of our entire Arab nation. Yes, brother, this is a new phase of our history which we enter with strength and belief after the volcano which erupted in Beirut. It is a phase of Arab transformation with all its values and concepts and with all that surrounds it and all that (?affects) it. Imperialist balances and everything based upon them will not live long after the eruption of this volcano in Beirut.

Beirut has exposed everything. It has exposed everything and nothing is left to our Arab nation except the deep roots produced by the free and noble people and the mujahidin. [applause]

In the battles of steadfastness, sacrifice, and dignity -- in this fierce war -- we and our Lebanese allies lost 72,000 civilian martyrs and wounded, in addition to 5,000 martyrs in the massacres of Sabra and Shatila. The war is still [word indistinct] after the epic battle of Beirut between us and this aggressor Zionist enemy. It is an honor for every Arab that our heroes in the joint forces operating in the Al-Biqa' valley, in the south, in Beirut, and in Palestine are inflicting the heaviest losses among the ranks of the Israeli enemy despite all the difficult conditions surrounding them and despite the inequality in equipment and men.

Therefore, this congress of ours, whose 16th session is being held after the epic of Beirut and the mircle of steadfastness in Lebanon, is a blatant challenge to every dimension of the American-Zionist plan and conspiracy against our revolution, against our people, and against our Arab nation. The convening of this congress places on record a firm and adequate reply to all their dreams of liquidating the PLO, destroying its institutions, dealing a blow to its military and political structure and its information, cultural, and social structure.

The spirit of challenge and the revolutionary will embodied by the epic of Beirut registers this great [word indistinct]. Our congress by this [word indistinct] alone of firm will and strong determination which cannot be (?bent) or [word indistinct] but which gives us strong impetus in our long and difficult march on the road to Golgotha, to our Jerusalem, to Palestine. Yes, the spirit of steadfastness and the epic in Beirut with all its deep roots and its greatness is (?filling) your skies today, is preserving our congress and protecting our resolutions and our unity. From this we proceed toward the horizon of the future, the vast horizon with all its dimensions, to produce for our nation -- together with all the free and noble people -- a brilliant tomorrow and a firm future so that this land will (?remain) for our children, our future generation, Arab, Arab, Arab, Arab. [applause]

Mr President, sisters, and brothers, for 18 years we have been fighting for our homeland through our Palestinian revolution. Through this last stage of our people's long march, that hard and difficult march, we have learned from our own experiences and those of revolutionaries all over the world that national unity is the guarantee for victory and that the independence of national decision away from all pressures and negative influences is the basis for crystalizing the national personality of our Palestinian people. We have learned that armed struggle complements political struggle in all fields. Despite all obstacles and hurdles and mines -- and they are many -- we have been guided by these bases. The revolution of our brother mujahidin in Algeria was the beacon for us in our bitter struggle and hard jihad, until the world came to recognize us and to recognize the justice of our cause and the valor and sacrifices of our heroes who defied the might of the American-Zionist war machine in Lebanon and in our occupied territory, thanks to our solid national unity and our independent national decision.

Brother President, sisters, and brothers, from this platform in the land of the victorious Algerian revolution, I address myself to my brothers, to our steadfast sons in precious Palestine. I say to our masses: The Palestine revolution today, with the convening of our PNC enters a new stage in our historical struggle for freedom of the homeland and man in Palestine and throughout our Arab nation. It is my duty to affirm to our steadfast masses struggling against Zionist occupation and sweeping colonization and against all methods of oppression, suppression, and aggression that this Palestinian flag will be protected and defended by sincere faithful hands which are loyal to the noble objectives of our heroic Palestinian people. [applause]

The rallying of our Palestinian people, internally and externally, around their armed revolution is the protective shield on which the arrows of the aggressors and the plotters always fall. Whatever the disguises and however hard the parties to the plot hide or try to hide themselves, and whatever forms the plot takes, after the Beirut events, they cannot deceive our people and our masses. No force, however great and however much acclaimed, can transform the giant who stood fast in Beirut and Lebanon into a dwarf orbiting around this or some other [word indistinct] or into a number on a gaming table. The flood of pure blood on the soil of Lebanon and in Beirut will [word indistinct] and (?become renowned) with successive victories on the road to Palestine. We will not allow this pure blood to be wasted because history will not show mercy [words indistinct]. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the leader of their struggle [words indistinct] and representative of their free and independent will, without the guardianship, dependence, or containment of any source [words indistinct].

Our decision comes from our people and from the barrel of a gun. Here I can say with my mouth full [as heard] that the objectives of our people at this stage are those reached by Palestinian unanimity inside and outside our occupied land, by its masses, it political, economic, social, intellectual, and organizational activities, and by all its organizations. These firm national objectives, which are not open to modification, are that our people shall live in their homeland, free and as masters.

I beg our Arab nation, and after the Arab summit in Fes approved the Arab peace plan and after the visit paid by the Arab seven-member committee to world capitals, I say to every Arab that peace is the peace of the strong. I say peace is the peace of the strong and there is no peace for the weak or for those who bend. Therefore, our Arab nation is called upon to mobilize all its energies and all its military and political and mass capabilities to confront the challenges of destiny imposed on us at this critical stage which our Arab nation is now experiencing.

From this rostrum I turn to the world community to say that to keep silent about the Israeli aggressor while it is (?spreading) depravity and destruction and perpetrating horrible massacres in the Middle East [words indistinct] limitless destruction. The Israeli arrogance in Lebanon and Palestine has revealed the extent of the [word indistinct] threat of this Israeli military presence to the peace and security of the world community as a whole. While backing all Israeli aggression with limitless support, the United States must not forget that Israel has made the Middle East a theater for five wars and catastrophes, of which the war in Lebanon will not be the last.

We do not fight for the sake of fighting and do not reject for the sake of rejection. We fight for the freedom of our homeland and people and for the sake of our dignity. We reject anything -- far or near -- that harms our firm national rights. On this basis, the PLO asks all countries in the world to stand beside it in the face of the Israeli aggression, stressing that there is no solution to the Middle East crisis, no peace, no stability, and no security in this region, without the firm national rights of the Palestinian people.

While clinging to the rifle and shouldering it in the face of aggression in order to defend our people and land and for the sake of our freedom, we are advocates of peace based on meeting our people's firm national rights, including the right to return, the right to self-determination, and the right to establish an independent Palestinian state on their national soil with holy Jerusalem as the capital. [applause] Our choice to establish a confederation with our people in fraternal Jordan is a genuine expression of our conviction in comprehensive Arab unity.

Mr Brother President, brother guests, brother members, we are entering a new phase in our armed struggle in circumstances which are extremely difficult and complex. This phase demands that we mobilize our forces and our people's gigantic potential and throw them into the battle for national destiny.

Our national unity is the basis of our action and movement, our independent national decision is our guide, which cannot be faulted in defining the target. It is inevitable that our National Council should lay down political programs which fulfill the requirements and reply to the challenges. Ultimately, it is inevitable that we should have absolute unity founded on a democratic and creative basis. Let thousands of flowers blossom but in the gardens of the revolution! [applause]

Our national unity in various fields will push our struggle forward by leaps and bounds. The decision to unify the valiant Palestinian military forces and the decisions to escalate our military action in light of the joint forces' battles in the war of steadfastness in Lebanon -- a matter which was recently admitted by the Israeli military clique when it announced that 355 military operations had been carried out by the resistance men in the joint forces... [fragment as heard] I call on our National Council, which expresses the aspirations and hopes of our people, to evaluate the current phase, to be aware of the dimensions of this current phase of our struggle, and then to draw up the correct policy for our victorious revolutionary march, particularly after we have been able to reorganize our ranks and to rebuild our military, political, and organizational institutions.

The PLO, entering its new revolutionary stage with firm and strong steps, turns to all those who are free and honorable in the world to stand beside our people's just struggle. At the same time, when the revolution starts this new and regenerated uprising, it reaches out -- as it has always done -- to all the world's liberation movements. It clasps their hands and stands beside them with all our capabilities.

We turn, with greetings and appreciation, to our friends in the socialist bloc led by the friendly Soviet Union, to the nonaligned countries, to the Islamic countries, to the African countries, and to the friendly countries for their support and their stand beside the just and legitimate struggle of our people. We greet and stand beside the free and revolutionary people in South Africa and Namibia and warmly greet all the free and revolutionary people in America, Latin America, and Asia. We are with every struggler against imperialism, Zionism, and colonialism. We are with every struggler against oppression, [word indistinct], and racial discrimination and for a better life and future.

On behalf of our struggling people inside and outside the occupied territories, and on behalf of our valiant and steadfast revolutionaries, I turn with greeting and appreciation toward the guests of this conference who represent the world we live in. They are not only participating with us by their presence in this conference, but also by their continuous support and active participation in pushing our revolutionary march toward our joint objectives.

Finally, in the name of our Palestinian people and their victorious revolution and in my own name, I address a word of greeting and appreciation to Brother President Chedli Bendjedid, commander of the 1.5 million martyrs [applause], and pledge to him and to all my brothers that our Palestine revolution will remain a fellow-traveler and comrade in struggle with the Algerian revolution and with all revolutionaries and freemen together until victory, God willing.

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. God has bought from the faithful their souls and property, promising paradise in return, for their fight in the cause of God, killing and getting killed. Truly He promises this in the Bible, the Torah, and in the Koran. Be happy with the bargain you have made, for it is the greatest victory. Thank you.

Chadli Bendjedid Speech

LD142208 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1810 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Speech by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at PNC session in Algiers -- live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Strugglers, men and women, brothers and comrades in the struggle: I greet you in the name of the Algerian revolution, its people, its leadership, and welcome you to this friendly country. I welcome you because you are the sons of Palestine and the sons of the sacred Palestinian revolution. Through you I greet our people in the occupied territories, our steadfast people, and greet our Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories and our brother refugees inside and outside the Arab states. I greet you not because you are sons of Arabism; I greet you because you are revolutionaries and Palestinians, and because you enhanced the name of Arabism and the reputation of the Arab nation. [applause]

Brothers, we believe in your just cause. We are and always will be by your side because the issue is not Palestinian alone; we believe it is a Palestinian issue, but it is also an Arab issue. It is a question of existence, of a civilization's struggle, and of honor and dignity as far as our people and the entire Arab nation are concerned.

It is my belief that any revolution should inevitably work within a framework of unity irrespective of any differences. It is my belief that the strength of any revolution or struggle lies in unity of mind and action. This attitude, as far as Algeria is concerned, is the only path that secures and renders an issue triumphant.

In this regard we would like to tell the struggling brothers the following: You must establish unity of ranks because the difficult phase through which the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation are passing requires it. There is no alternative to unity of ranks within the framework of unity of mind and action for the sake of the sacred aim -- the liberation of Palestine and the regaining of the Palestinian people's rights, including the right to establish their own independent state under the leadership and banner of the PLO and the Palestinian state.

An independent Palestinian decision does not mean we should tell our Palestinian brothers: Go, and with God, and fight alone. No, we are on your side in all weather. [applause] We will always be by your side. We will never be an obstruction in your path because we believe that the final decision rests with the sons of Palestine. You are the legitimate representatives of your people, and it is your right to make all the decisions which are compatible with your aims and principles and the aspirations of your people. But this means that the Algerian revolution has something to say to the Palestinian revolution as a gesture of solidarity and fraternity and frankness. This we will do out of our concern to preserve your revolution, your unity, and the future of your people.

Frankly speaking, mistakes have been committed by the Arab states. I am speaking as a struggler in order to expresss the views of Algeria and the Algerian people with regard to this issue -- the Palestinian issue, which is our own issue; your issue primarily, but our issue too as far as Algeria and the Arab nation are concerned.

Brothers, we would like to place on the Palestinian brother officials the responsibility of taking a clear-cut stand with regard to their issue so they can put the entire world -- whether the Arab world or the entire world, including Algeria -- face to face with the fait accompli of your decision. You will find Algeria on your side. I have said on several occasions that we will not be more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves as far as the Palestinian issue is concerned, but you will always find us on your side, standing with you shoulder to shoulder in all weather as far as your decision and your issue are concerned, because it is our issue and the issue of the entire Arab nation. [applause] [passage indistinct]

Brothers, as I have said, make your decision and put the world face to face with a fait accompli so that the world will shoulder its responsibility in full as far as the events taking place in the region are concerned. We all know about Israel. Israel was manufactured by the United States. We do not blame the American or other people whose governments support the racist regime. We mean the regimes. Had it not been for their absolute support in all areas, Israel would not exist today. The wars which the Arabs waged were not waged against one state but against a superpower -- the strongest power on earth. We say this quite frankly because we in Algeria enjoy independence and make Algerian decisions in Algeria, itself free from any influence.

There is also the responsibility of the Western states. We say the Western states from the historic point of view, Great Britain, for instance. We all know history and how the Israeli state was created with the support and blessings of the Western states, chiefly Great Britain. The Western states have a historic responsibility too.

Brothers, the only solution lies in unity of ranks. I am pleased with the spirit of democracy prevailing at your council. This is proof that the Palestinian people and revolution are mature and capable of shouldering their responsibilities.

The Arabs, including Algeria, should support and consolidate the Palestinian stand and decision. The Arab nation should learn a lesson from all past wars. So far we have made no appraisal of what happened or of the reasons which led to the current situation. Perhaps the battle of Lebanon will make us do that.

I would like to tell my Arab brothers that it is time that we analyzed all issues in order to ascertain the reasons so that we can proceed from a clear concept and according to clear methods. This is because there are differences within the Arab nation, differences which I believe are minor. Therefore, it is time to abandon these minor differences and deal with the fateful issues.

Al-Fahum Reelected Speaker

LD150008 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The PNC resumed the work of its 16th session at 2100 this evening at the Palace of Nations in Algiers after an hour's recess during which the participants attended a reception given in their honor by President Chadli Bendjedid. During the second session Khalid al-Fahum was reelected as PNC speaker. In addition, Salim az-Za'nun was elected first deputy speaker, Mahmud (Tayim) was elected second deputy speaker, and Mahmud (as-Sabih) was elected PNC secretary.

USSR, DPRK, SRV Delegations

LD130350 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] [No dateline as received] -- Member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Ruben, who is leading his country's delegation to attend the PNC session, arrived in Algeria at midday today. On board the same plane were delegations from Democratic Korea and Vietnam. The three delegations were received by the Palestinian reception committee and a representative of the party external relations committee.

KUNA: UK NOTE TO SAUDIS CONTAINTED NOTHING NEW

LD141447 Kuwait KUNA in English 1237 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Excerpts] London, Feb (?14) (KUNA) -- A message sent last week to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher reiterated Britain's desire that the controversy over the postponed Arab League delegation issue be resolved as quickly as possible, according to well-placed government sources here Monday. In addition, the message, which was delivered by Britain's ambassador to the Kingdom, Sir James Craig, expressed the hope that Anglo-Saudi relations would soon be back to normal, the sources said.

The sources here said that while the note covered the present "chill" in Anglo-Saudi relations and the whole delegation question, it did not contain any new proposal on the crucial question of PLO participation. There was "no real substance" to the message to King Fahd, and it did not constitute any attempt to by-pass negotiations over the delegation which, up to the present, had been conducted through the Moroccan authorities, the sources added.

Radio Monte Carlo Report

JN141824 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Riyadh 'Abdallah ash-Shiri -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] It appears that the visit to London by the Arab seven-member committee under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II has been ruled out and may officially be canceled. Highly placed sources in Riyadh today hinted that the recent contacts and consultations among the Arab capitals which are concerned with the visit established the almost unanimous conviction of the futility of the committee's visit to London in view of the stubborn position demonstrated by the government of Mrs Thatcher and its refusal to accept the PLO representative within the committee.

These sources, in another development, did not rule out the possibility that collective Arab sanctions could be imposed on Britain in the near future, particularly in the economic field. The sources said that the message Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz had received yesterday from Mrs Thatcher deals with the subject. The sources, however, declined to elaborate on the contents of the message.

SAUDI OIL MINISTER ON PRICE CRISIS, OPEC

LD110018 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2025 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 10 Feb (SPA) -- His Excellency Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, gave the following interview to IQRA magazine published today:

Q: Do you think that the price rise is the only reason behind the acute present crises?

A: The price rise is the only reason for the crises. However, the behavior of some producers and consumers has intensified the crises. After we agreed in March on the OPEC production ceiling and on individual ceilings for every member country and to abide by the set price, a number of members started to follow a dangerous policy of reducing prices to the lowest possible level that would enable them to sell the largest possible quantity that they could produce.

Q: What do you expect to happen to OPEC?

A: It is difficult to give a clearcut answer. On the one hand, I see no way out of a price reduction; on the other, certain countries will attempt to fight a price reduction and, if no decision is made by OPEC, the matter will be left for its members to act. Then chaos might be created, which would harm them.

Q: Which countries will fight the price reduction in OPEC?

A: The countries which give discounts. They want our prices to remain high so that they can sell whatever they wish to produce with discounts from that high price. If we reduced our price, their income would come down immediately. They might start to lose some of the markets which they think they have gained. Add to those countries other countries such as Algeria, whose gas price is tied to the price of its oil. A fall in the price of oil will result in a fall in its gas price and this will harm it.

Q: As long as the rise in price has led, as you have said, to a fall in consumption, is it not wise to reduce the price so that consumption will go up?

A: This is the only way. However, it is bitter medicine in any case and there are those who will be harmed by it. Its bitterness is due to the fall in income during this year as a result of the fall in prices and production. The expected effect on rising consumption will not be quick during the coming months. There are also countries outside OPEC which have played an effective role in shaking the market that will sustain great harm from an uncontrolled and unregulated price fall because many of their fields produce at a high cost. This is in addition to damage that will be caused to U.S. banks lending money to small companies inside the United States or its neighbor, Mexico.

Q: Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future and why?

A: I am very optimistic because demand will start to rise as a result of reduced prices. The world economy will be revived and industiral consumption will increase. The competition of coal with fuel oil will weaken. Moreover, the oil reserves of the consumers have reached a very low level and they are no longer a means to make demand fluctuate artificially as they have been.

Q: Will OPEC remain or will it be replaced by something else?

A: OPEC is here to stay. It benefits from the lessons it has had. Also, the major producers outside OPEC have learned now that competing with OPEC will harm them. Therefore, they might find it is in their interest to build bridges of understanding with OPEC.

Q: Do you expect a new petroleum crisis in the future?

A: The crises of 1973 and 1979 had political causes. The first was because of the October war and the second because of the Iranian revolution. I cannot rule out political causes which will have similar effects. If this happens, God forbid, the consumers who speculate with their reserves will face a harsh lesson as they are now in a delicate situation. The occurrence of any shock in supplies will put them in a grave situation. If no political shakeups happen, I expect a balance between supply and demand around 1987. The price of gas, based upon the actual facts of supply and demand, will be the effective means to prevent oil crises.

Q: Is it beneficial to have cooperation between producers and consumers?

A: This has become necessary now more than at any time before. I believe that those who stand in its way on both sides will change their stances after the lessons we have had during 1979, 1980, and at present.

IRANIAN OFFICIAL ON GENEVA OPEC CONFERENCE

PA110007 Paris AFP in Spanish 1631 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Caracas, 10 Feb (AFP) -- Iran does not support a decrease in oil prices, Iranian Deputy Energy Minister Abas Honardoost said in Caracus today. "Decreasing the price of oil will not solve the marketing problem and will not increase the demand for oil," added Honardoost.

The Iranian official arrived in Venezuela on Wednesday as a government guest to attend today's inauguration of the Amuay refinery's expansion, to handle 630,000 barrels a day, making it the largest refinery in the world outside the United States.

"Those who maintain that the last OPEC meeting in Geneva was a failure are mistaken," said the Iranian deputy minister.

"There are countries, even within OPEC, interested in decreasing oil prices because they believe they can then sell more crude or products. However, Iran believes this position is mistaken," he said.

"Iran believes that in the near future the international oil market will return to normal and that the demand for crude will increase," said Honardoost.

He added that Iran now produces 3.1 million barrels per day and exports 2.5 million barrels per day. "We believe that our production quota should be 3.1 million barrels per day, but we are prepared to decrease this to as little as 2.7 million barrels per day if OPEC requests it and if agreement is reached on national quotas among the member countries," affirmed Honardoost.

The Iranian deputy energy minister criticized Saudi Arabia and Kuwait not only as oil producers and exporters but for their support of Iraq in the war between the two countries. "However, in spite of this aid, the Iranian revolution will defeat Iraq in the near future," concluded Honardoost.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER ON STOPPAGE OF SAUDI CRUDE OIL

GF122044 Manama AL-ADWA' in Arabic 12 Feb 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, development and industry minister and minister of state for Cabinet affairs, said that the stoppage of the flow of Saudi crude oil to Bahrain's refinery is an emergency measure and that it will continue for a limited period of time. He said this stoppage is the result of technical problems, but that the international oil market situation has also complicated the matter.

His excellency said: The practice has been that when Bapco [Bahrain Petroleum Company] wanted to stop the flow to carry out repairs and necessary maintenance it would first draw large quantities of oil in advance for refining and storage to make up the difference during a voluntary stoppage.

The minister said: What has happened is that the quantity which was refined was not sold as a result of the complications in the international market and the decline in the demand for oil. Thus the storage tanks are now full of oil and that is why refining has stopped. He added: The rate of pumped crude oil from Saudi Arabia has never been fixed; rather, it ranges from 55,000 to 120,000 barrels per day according to the refinery's situation and the requirements for refined oil as well as the international oil market. That is also why what is usually published on figures is the rate over the entire year, the minister said. Comparing the Bapco refinery with the Alba Aluminum Glen, he said: If not marketed, we can fill the desert with Alba's Aluminum production because it is metal and strong and does not require tanks like oil. Nevertheless, Alba sometimes reduces its production to 20,000 tons from its normal production which is 90,000 tons if demand drops.

It is hoped that the oil flow from the Kingdom to the refinery will resume during the next few weeks, the minister concluded.

SAUDI ARABIA

SOURCE DENIES OIL PRICE CUT, INCREASED OUTPUT

GF120542 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] The IQRA' magazine published an interview with the Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister on the issue of petroleum. An official, responsible source stressed that nothing has so far been decided with regard to reducing prices or increasing production. It must be noted that Saudi Arabia is concerned about the interests of the OPEC countries and also for its own interests in particular.

HAMMADI CONFERS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ

JN150902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] Washington, 15 Feb (INA) -- Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for presidential affairs, met here last night with George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the situation in the Arab region and international affairs of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Dr Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraq's permanent UN representative, and Nicholas Veliotes, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

JORDAN'S HUSAYN LEAVES AFTER SHORT VISIT

JN102016 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2011 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA) -- His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad this evening following a brief 3-hour visit. The Jordanian monarch was seen off by President Saddam Husayn as well as by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; Tariz 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Sa'dun Shakir, minister of interior.

President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn had held a round of talks during which President Saddam Husayn presented a detailed briefing on Iraq's solid stand on the battlefront, Iraq's great victories and the crushing of the recent Iranian offensive in the Ash-Shib region. The Jordanian king reaffirmed the support of Jordan, government and people, for Iraq's just battle against the Iranian aggression. The talks also dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and the general Arab situation.

FRANCE'S CHEYSSON HOLDS TALKS, MEETS NEWSMEN

JN121824 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA) -- The first round of Iraqi-French talks began here this evening. It was chaired by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, and Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister.

The two sides discussed the extensive cooperation relations between the two countries and their common desire to continue promoting them in service of their joint interests. The two sides also discussed and exchanged views on the current Arab developments, particularly those related to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The French minister arrived here earlier today at the head of an official delegation on a several-days visit to Iraq.

Meeting With Saddam Husayn

JN131333 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA) -- At midday President Saddam Husayn received French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, who forwarded a verbal message from French President Francois Mitterrand dealing with the strong relations between Iraq and France and confirming their profound friendship. The two sides discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation and stressed the need to continue it within the spirit of friendship that characterizes the long-standing relations between the two countries.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his high appreciation for France's stand and that of President Mitterrand toward Arab issues and the war imposed on Iraq by the Iranian regime. During the meeting, which lasted well over 2 hours, the two sides touched on Arab issues as well as international issues of mutual concern. The views were very close.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, director of the presidential office, and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

The French official arrived in Baghdad yesterday leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Ramadan, Cheysson Comments

JN132006 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, this evening received Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations. Alluding to President Saddam Husayn's meetings with the French minister, Ramadan highlighted the president's all-embracing and important address and his emphasis on long-term principled cooperation between Iraq and France in various fields as this would serve the interests of the two friendly peoples for independence and progress. Ramadan stressed the importance of developing the relations between Iraq and France, especially in the economic sector, which is the mainstay of progress.

Ramadan pointed out that Iraq views its current economy with a spirit replete with confidence and reassurance, stressing that the war will not obstruct our development and construction. He said: We are fighting the spiteful Iranian regime and at the same time are building our new Iraq, affirming that Iraq's successive victories over the Iranian forces have proved the nobility and capability of our heroic people which are derived from the determination and courage of our leader President Saddam Husayn.

Ramadan reviewed the strategic projects being implemented with the pan-Arab development plan despite the war. He said that these projects, which will play a major role in boosting our national economy, are being implemented in accordance with programmed plans to develop continuously our resources no matter how long the war continues.

Cheysson expressed his pleasure at meeting President Saddam Husayn and the president's keen deisre to expand and promote relations between Iraq and France based on friendship, independence, and mutual interests of the two peoples. He expressed admiration with the bright economic development in Iraq despite the difficult war circumstances, affirming the readiness of French companies to continue implementing a number of development plans in Iraq.

During the meeting, which was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the French ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed means to develop bilateral relations and their mutual desire to strengthen these relations in various fields.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the nature of the relations between the two countries, which witnessed progress and expansion over past years. They also discussed the situation in the Arab region and the dangers to the region's peace and independence.

Cheysson Press Conference

JN141358 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA) -- Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, has declared that his country will continue its efforts to achieve peace in the Arab Gulf region. He added that France, as an international power, is calling for a halt to the Iraqi-Iranian war and appeals to the two sides to solve their problems at the negotiating table as prolongation of the war will only bring further devastation.

In a press conference here at midday at the end of his visit to Iraq, the French minister expressed surprise at the world's silence over the war, stressing that the recent Iranian offensive is a new violation of Iraq's international borders.

Cheysson said his talks with Iraqi officials were good and successful, adding that relations between France and Iraq continue to be good. The bilateral meetings, he affirmed, created chances for us to discuss and surmount problems and difficulties which often arise during the implementation of cooperation. He said that his country would redouble its efforts at the United Nations to end the war, stressing that French-Iraqi cooperation constitutes an encouraging, important factor for the attainment of peace.

The French minister said that his country has been making ceaseless peace calls to the side which is opposing negotiations as a means for settling the conflict. He affirmed that France's cooperation with Iraq aims at preserving the independent, important position of this ancient country, whose history dates back centuries. He pointed out that France is currently implementing contracts signed many years ago.

Cheysson affirmed that French companies will continue to implement their contracts in Iraq.

The French minister reaffirmed his country's support for Lebanon and the Lebanese Government to restore stability to this country. He called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, stressing that France is apprehensive at the possibility that the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel will fail to bring about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. He reiterated France's support for the Palestinian people's right to determine their own future and build their own independent state, adding: We are always with peoples' rights to independence and a peaceful life.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who attended the press conference, declared that Iraq has the power to continue to defend its territory without French military assistance. He added that all the Iraqis are now standing in a concerted rank to defend their territory and independence, not only for months but for several years. He affirmed that French-Iraqi military cooperation does not contravene international law but is simply part of the principles of cooperation.

'Aziz reaffirmed Iraq's firm stand of not intervening in domestic affairs of neighboring countries or usurping parts of their territories. He said that Iraq is a peace-loving country which is defending its independence and playing its humanitarian and cultural role.

At the end of the press conference, the French minister left Baghdad winding up a 3-day visit to Iraq.

COMMUNIQUE NO 1,000 ON 13-14 FEB OPERATIONS

JN141728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,000 issued by Iraqi armed forces general command on 14 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the spirit of our great forefathers and their solid determination to wrest right and score victory, the defenders of the homeland and its impregnable shield, the sons of our great people and army, continued their valiant operations in the operational sectors against the aggressor forces. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. Using various types of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy concentrations and troop movements in the Maysan operational sector, killing 37, wounding a number of others; destroying 4 vehicles, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post, and seizing 2 armored personnel carriers.
2. One of our forward units attacked an enemy concentration opposite their positions east of Basra, killing 15, wounding others, and destroying 1 106-mm gun.
3. Six were killed and one observation post destroyed in the central operational sector.
4. Using artillery, the treacherous Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah, damaging a number of civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 February 1983

PRESIDENT GRANTS AMNESTY TO DESERTERS

JN121430 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1205 GMT 12 Feb 83

["Text" of 12 February open letter from President Saddam Husayn to families of those who have failed to join military service, deserters, and others concerned -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraqi brothers, God's peace and blessings be upon you. Recent successful battles have given us, the Iraqis, and all good and honest sons of the Arab nation wherever we may be a special kind of pride and chivalry and have reminded us of all the values of love and goodness, as well as principled firmness and its emblems and examples. My colleagues and I feel that some families of those whose courage has failed them -- those succumbed to temptation, those who were enticed by a narrow outlook on life, and those who did not have the honor of participating in these battles or perhaps in previous battles -- have hearts filled with pain and distress.

Out of our eagerness to build a strong, prosperous, homogeneous, and optimistic Iraq, in which all of its sons would participate in forging the values of glory and have the honor of defending the homeland; so as not to give complexes to those who might have deviated from the sound course unintentionally; out of our respect and appreciation for the strong relationship which binds us all together as Iraqis, and so that no one will blame us later for anything, we deem it appropriate to give those who have deserted or failed to join the military service or the internal security forces another chance to join the march of honor and pride, whose banner was raised by the courageous and honest heroes who have been faithful to the rights of the homeland and who have fulfilled their commitment to this homeland with well known courage and efficiency. Also, so that no one can blame or reproach us when we apply the law to the renegades and those who fail to honor their national obligations, we have decided to grant amnesty to deserters and those who have failed to enlist. They must join their units or report to their recruitment centers or party centers so as to participate in the march. This amnesty will remain valid until the first of next month. We hope that the families concerned will take it upon themselves to rectify their sons' failure to uphold our sound stands and values. Henceforth those who fail to perform their duties will have only themselves to blame. In order to distinguish between all those who have been defending Iraq since the very beginning of the war, those who did their military service as scheduled, and those to whom we have granted amnesty, the Al-Qadisiyah insignia will be bestowed only on those who excel in future battles at the recommendation of their direct commanders.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES FRANCE'S CHEYSSON

JN111835 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson tonight reviewed the international developments and the causes of the Arab region, particularly the developments of the Palestinian issue. His majesty outlined Jordan's stance and the Arab point of view regarding these issues, stressing the Arab inclination to achieve a comprehensive peace built on justice, right, the restoration of the occupied Arab territories, and enabling the Palestinian people to practice their legitimate national rights. During an audience at An-Nadwa Palace this evening, his majesty presented Claude Cheysson with a detailed explanation of the conditions revailing in the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's suffering from deprivation, displacement, and confiscation of their land and properties by the occupying Israeli authorities. His majesty also outlined the dimensions of the Iranian aggression against fraternal Iraq and its expansionist designs which jeopardize the safety and security of neighboring Arab countries.

Present at the meeting were the Jordanian foreign minister and the French ambassador in Amman.

Cheysson Television Interview

JN112050 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Jordan television English service correspondent Sima Bahhuth's interview with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson held at the Amman airport upon his arrival on 11 February -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Your visit to Jordan at this time and your tour in Iraq and Syria, does it signal a more active role of France in the Middle East affairs?

[Answer] Well, we are trying to be as active as needed. We have a direct involvement in anything that may happen in this part of the world. We have so many friends and from where at times we have visits which area, of course, welcome. The latest and most important was the visit of his majesty heading that mission of the seven, a mission resulting from the Fes summit, which was in Paris -- as you know and as everyone knows in Jordan -- in November last. [His majesty] was the head of a seven-man delegation included a number of countries plus the PLO. And we want to keep in very close touch with Jordan. My colleague [Marwan al-Qasim] paid me the honor to be in Paris a short while before the king came and we felt that it was important that we should be back here once more.

[Question] One final question, sir. You do have, France does have peace-keeping forces in Lebanon and in the south but Palestinian civilians there are still being subjected every day to Israeli attacks and harassment. What do you think should be done to prevent and to preserve the Palestinian civilians down there in the South?

[Answer] I wish I knew. I wish I knew because the sufferings of the Palestinian people in Lebanon is particularly alarming. Yes, we have two peace-keeping forces in Lebanon one under the United Nations which has been there for a long time, so-called UNIFIL. The other one which we could not manage to have under the United Nations. We would have preferred it under the UN Security Council. It is not possible but there was a need for such a force at the time of the siege of Beirut. We accepted we be part of a multinational force with our American and Italian friends. And no one will doubt that it has helped. I don't see that it has, well, given a complete safeguard to the Palestinians out there, to the civilians there. But still, it has certainly helped.

AMMAN REPORTS HUSAYN'S RETURN FROM BAGHDAD

JN102144 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn spent the day in fraternal Iraq. His majesty and his delegation arrived in Baghdad at midday and immediately afterwards he held a meeting with President Saddam Husayn. The two sides held a lengthy meeting this evening. President Saddam presented a detailed briefing on the military situation, stressing the Iraqi Armed Forces' success in confronting the successive waves of the Iranian offensives, destroying the invading forces, and continuously defending Iraq's soil and dignity with strength and aptitude.

His Majesty King Husayn paid tribute to the brave and honorable stand fraternal Iraq -- leadership, army, and people -- is adopting vis-a-vis the Iranian aggression, which is not only aimed against Iraq but also against the security and stability of the region's states. His majesty reaffirmed Jordan's support and backing of its Iraqi brothers, prompted by the pan-Arab principle: Any aggression against any Arab land would be an aggression against the entire Arab nation. His majesty called on the Arab states to abide by the Arab League's Charter and the collective Arab defense pact and to support Iraq in its just battle.

The Iraqi and Jordanian sides discussed the various current issues and the developments in the Palestinian issue both on the Arab and international levels. The discussions also dealt with the close bilateral relations and the joint cooperation in the various spheres.

HUSAYN RECEIVES PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER

JN141645 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Pakistani Foreign Minsiter Sahabzada Khan at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. The two sides reviewed current Arab and Islamic issues, the Palestinian issue, and Arab and international efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They also discussed the results of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the dimensions of the Iraqi-Iranian war, the strong bilateral relations, and means of bolstering joint cooperation in various fields between the two fraternal countries.

Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

The Pakistani foreign minister arrived in Amman this afternoon on an official 4-day visit to Jordan. In a press statement, Khan praised the strong and historical bilateral relations bewtween Jordan and Pakistan. He said that Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn, always works for the benefit of Arab issues. He added: My visit to Jordan comes at a time when the Middle East issue is drawing world attention due to events in Lebanon during previous months and the international efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive solution for the Middle East issue.

He said that events in the Middle East are important to Pakistan because it considers itself as part of the Islamic world and because Pakistan has historical and cultural relations at all levels with Islamic world countries. He stressed the Pakistani Government's belief in the importance of establishing a just peace that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Praising the Arab peace plan approved at the Fes summit conference, he said that it represented a basis for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He noted that he will discuss with the Jodranian officials various issues of mutual interest which will be discussed during the forthcoming nonaligned conference.

REPORTAGE ON U.S. ENVOY HABIB'S MEETINGS

Al-Jumayyil Reviews U.S. Proposals

NC131224 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] The U.S. Presidential envoy today resumed his contacts in Lebanon. He visited President Amin al-Jumayyil for a third time. They resumed their review of the U.S. proposals on accelerating the withdrawals from Lebanon. U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Robert Dillon told Beirut radio that Ambassador Habib will hold a series of meetings with the Lebanese leaders. He said that Habib's only activity this morning was his call on President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Informed sources in Beirut affirm that the purpose of the contacts which were held with U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib is to crystallize the new U.S. proposals in a form which would push forward the tripartite negotiations and set a timetable for the withdrawal of the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. The sources say the U.S. envoy affirmed that Washington is diligently seeking to accelerate the departure of the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon to stop any factors which might obstruct the efforts being exerted to settle the Lebanese crisis.

Salam Receives Habib

NC131835 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] U.S. envoy Ambassador Philip Habib today continued his contacts with the political leaders. At 1620 today, he visited [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam. During the meeting, which lasted until 1730, they reviewed U.S. envoy Habib's mission.

After the meeting, [former] Prime Minister Salam made a statement in which he said: As everybody is aware, Philip Habib is seeking to help Lebanon rid itself of the Israeli occupation and of every illegal, armed person present on Lebanese territory. He briefed me on the (?developments) that have so far taken place on the basis of the special directives he received from his government, and more specific, from President Reagan. [Former] Prime Minister Salam added: We had a detailed discussion of all points. I feel that it is our duty always to assist the endeavors Mr Habib is making as long as these endeavors are in the interest of Lebanon which the Lebanese Government and president are seeking. We support the Lebanese Government in all its attempts by all means to get rid of foreign occupation.

Asked if Ambassador Habib had informed him of any approaching withdrawals, [former] Prime Minister Salam said: He is seeking withdrawals in the near future and we hope that these withdrawals will take place as soon as possible. Asked if Habib had talked about a new U.S. plan, [former] Prime Minister Salam said: The U.S. plan is clear and known. They want to help Lebanon to regain its legitimate authority on all its territory, beginning with the departure of the Israeli occupation forces from its territory.

Asked if a date has been set for withdrawals, as has been reiterated, [former] Prime Minister Salam said: I have not heard of specific dates being fixed. Asked about the statements that February will be a decisive month, [former] Prime Minister Salam said: Let us seriously endeavor to achieve the removal of the occupation as soon as possible.

Asked if their discussions dealt with the issue of the mountain, he said: The issue of the mountain is part of the Israeli presence. Had it not been for this presence, there would not have been a mountain issue or any other issue to confuse matters in Lebanon.

Salim-Habib Discussion

NC141455 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib is scheduled to return to Lebanon before this weekend. He will hold serious talks with the Israeli side tomorrow, Tuesday. It was learned from diplomatic sources today following Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim's meeting with Habib that the discussions dealt with general policy, Lebanon's relationship with the area, and Lebanon's relations with the United States and the guarantees the United States can offer outside the framework of the negotiations. The sources pointed out that the subject of guarantees is of great interest to Lebanon.

Habib to Israel

NC141640 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib, after concluding his talks with Lebanese officials and leaders, left for Israel this afternoon. Habib had talks with Foreign Minister Elie Salim which transcended the subject of negotiations to general policy and Lebanon's relationship with the area, as well as its relations with the United States. It has been learned that Minister Salim asked about the guarantees which Washington can offer Lebanon outside the framework of the negotiations. Informed circles have said that Habib did not bring new proposals with him, and that he is confining his mission to bringing closer views that crystallize through the committees which are working at drawing up a text that will include all items and viewpoints in order to expedite the negotiations process.

Philip Habib today also visited Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil [leader of the Phalangist party] at his home. They reviewed security and political developments for 1 and 1/2 hours. Following the meeting, the Phalangist leader said: We hope that the United States will not frustrate the hopes of this tormented people, who deserve every assistance not only because they have been wronged but also because they have proved worthy of living more than once. Shaykh Pierre added: It is my conviction that from a practical standpoint, Lebanon deserves more than what the multinational force is doing. Lebanon is demanding minimum security and the world will not [fa lan ya'jaz] fail to give it to it.

On the incidents in the mountain, the Phalangist leader said: The success of the latest agreement is contingent upon the extent the Israeli army shoulder its responsibilities. International charters and laws stipulate that an occupation army must be responsible for the security of the areas and the countries it occupies.

Pierre al-Jumayyil on Habib

NC141835 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] During his meeting with Ambassador Philip Habib, Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil focused on three topics: The U.S. initiative, the multinational forces' role, and the responsibility of the Israeli forces in the mountain. Following the meeting, Al-Jumayyil said that Lebanon has suffered 8 years of ordeals while the world, particularly the United States, Europe, and the Arabs, were cautious in order not to burn their hands with the fire of the Lebanese crisis. He added that that state of affairs continued until the Israeli invasion, which we had already warned would take place.

Some 10 years ago, we cautioned the Arabs and the Palestinians more than once of the borders. However, Al-Jumayyil said, no one listened to us, and this lead to the large-scale Israeli intervention. At last, the United States volunteered to help us emerge from our impasse. We welcomed this initiative and placed and are still placing all our confidence in the United States in its capacity as a full partner in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. This means that the U.S. responsibility is great and we hope that the United States will not disappoint the hopes of this tormened people, who deserve all help, not only because they are oppressed but because they have repeatedly proven that they are worthy of life and demonstrated splendid steadfastness.

Recalling the role of the multinational force, Al-Jumayyil said that these forces, which represent the greatest countries of the world and, thanks to them, volunteered to play the greatest role, are stalling in returning security to this country, at least in the mountain and its vicinity. In my belief, Lebanon deserves more than what these forces are doing practically. As to how this can be done, the question is posed to the consciences of these countries' leaders who have repeatedly expressed their feelings for Lebanon. He asserted that Lebanon is asking for a minimum of security. Will the world be unable to offer this to Lebanon?

On the events in the mountain, Al-Jumayyil said: I hope that the security agreement currently being implemented in the mountain will succeed. In my opinion, its success is contingent upon the extent the Israeli army shoulders its responsibility. Any occupation army must be responsible for the security of the areas and towns it occupies. International charters and laws provide for this, regardless of the reasons of the occupation. Any military occupation in itself constitutes an oppression. Despite this oppression, a minimum of security must be ensured for the people. The sons of the mountain deserve this minimum, despite the occupation, which deprives them of the legitimate national authority's care.

NEGOTIATIONS ROUND BEGINS IN KHALDAH 14 FEB

NC140814 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0742 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- live]

[Text] The Information Ministry's delegation to the negotiations in the Khaldah Hotel is speaking to you this morning from a hall adjacent to the subcommittee meetings hall.

The three delegations arrived at the meetings hall at 0900 this morning. They entered the hall and the journalists and information officials, including television correspondents and photographers, were invited to the meetings hall to take the usual picture.

At the meetings hall, the journalists and reporters often tried to obtain some statements and information from the delegation leaders who declined to give any information regarding what will happen today during the meeting.

Informed sources say the meetings which were scheduled to be held tomorrow, Tuesday or the day after tomorrow have been postponed and will be held on Thursday and Friday in Israel. This delay or this transfer of venue has been attributed to the presence of U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib in the area and to the continuation of his contacts with officials both in Lebanon with the Lebanese Government and in Israel. The meetings will be held in Israel on Thursday and Friday to discuss the results which Ambassador Habib might have achieved in his discussions in Beirut and Israel.

Ladies and gentlemen: The official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud Sayigh, has just entered the hall. He said the plenary session was adjourned 5 minutes after its convocation and that the meetings of the subcommittees have begun. They are the withdrawals and security arrangements committee and the committee for ending the state of war. Therefore, only two committees have begun their meetings this moment. They are the withdrawals and security arrangements committee and the committee for ending the state of war.

Session Ends; Subcommittees Convene

NC140919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0840 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- live]

[Text] This is the Information Ministry's delegation speaking to you from the negotiations center at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. The meetings of the withdrawal and security arrangements committee and the subcommittee on ending the state of war began at 0935. These meetings followed a 5-minute plenary session of the three delegations.

The subcommittees will evaluate the results of last week's meetings in Qiryat Shemona and discuss a number of new points on today's agenda. All the discussions revolve around technical issues and certain points. The three delegations agreed to discuss them in detail. The atmosphere prevailing among the conference circles confirms that the results of today's discussions depend on the results of the contacts of U.S. envoy Philip Habib as of today in Beirut with some officials and leaders and later in Israel.

The new U.S. plan, which Philip Habib has brought to Israel and Lebanon this time, aims at accelerating the negotiations to speed up the decision on the withdrawals of all the foreign forces from Lebanese territory. The plan is connected with the results of the political developments which took place in Israel following the publication of the Kahan commission's report. All this will reflect on today's discusssions. All eyes are focusing on this here, awaiting the results.

The delegations arrived early at the Lebanon Beach Hotel this morning. The meetings began at 0930.

Subcommittee Meetings Recess

NC141119 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah in Arabic, French and English; processed from English — live]

[Text] Hello again: This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

Well, the 15th round of the negotiations has opened today amid an evident detente imbued by the presence in Lebanon and in the region of the U.S. envoy, Philip Habib. The subcommittees that met this morning are those of the withdrawals and termination of the state of war. The subcommittee for mutual relations will not meet today as Dr Kharmah, who heads this subcommittee, is sick.

The plenary session lasted only 5 minutes following which the conferees split and convened in subcommittees. The general atmosphere was relaxed and a general detente is foreseeable. In any case, it seems there has been a change in the scheduled meetings which will be held in principle this week. Well, instead of tomorrow, Tuesday, and Wednesday, they will be held probably on Thursday and Friday in Netanya. The only positive and encouraging aspect of these negotiations is the new development which has brought the conferees to start on a detailed study of the proposals submitted by both sides. Is it the beginning of a certain accord? Maybe it is premature to use the term but one thing is sure -- it is the start of a serious discussion of the ideas to coordinate views and come out with an acceptable final stand from the negotiating side.

At present, all we can say is that the subcommittees have ended their morning meetings and are now preparing to have lunch. It is expected that another round of talks takes place early this afternoon.

Subcommittee Meetings Resume

NC141329 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah in Arabic, French and English; processed from English -- live]

[Text] Good afternoon. This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information still with you as usual from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

Following the lunch, the delegations met this afternoon in the Lebanon Beach Hotel. The afternoon meetings have now resumed at the subcommittees level and as soon as they finish, they are expected to have a general plenary session to assess the findings reached in today's discussions. In any case, we will remain with you to give you news about the final communique which is expected to be published later this afternoon.

All what can be said was that the official spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, Dawud Sayigh, came out to announce that the subcommittees have resumed their meetings. In any case, as soon as anything comes up, we will broadcast it to you live on radio from the Lebanon Beach Hotel.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Khaldah in Lebanon.

Meetings End; Statement Issued

NC141440 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Lebanese Information Ministry at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah -- live]

[Text] The Information Ministry delegation greets you from the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. The subcommittees meetings ended just now [words indistinct] the plenary session. After the meeting, a joint statement was issued. This statement will now be read to you by the official spokesman for the Lebanese delegation Major 'Atif Tarabay in Arabic:

The subcommittees for withdrawals, security arrangements, and the termination of the state of war met today and continued drafting work. The subcommittee for mutual relations will meet at the coming session. The next meeting will be held on Thurdsday, 17 February, in Netanya. Thank you.

That was the text of the statement in Arabic. It was read to you by Maj 'Atif Tarabay in the name of the official Lebanese delegation. This is the Information Ministry delegation at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. We now transfer you back to our studios in Beirut.

INFORMATION MINISTRY DELEGATE ON ISRAEL TALKS

NC142110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Interview with Hamid Tarabay, member of the Lebanese Information Ministry delegation to the Lebanese-Iraeli-U.S. talks, apparently from the studio -- live]

[Text] [Question] Hamid, it has been observed that the official statements issued on the talks are very brief. What atmosphere prevailed in today's negotiations?

[Answer] In fact, the official statements are brief because of the delicacy of the negotiations and also the subjects that are raised during the negotiations. We, as journalists outside the meetings hall, try to deduce the situation from a word or a gesture emanating from someone taking part in the negotiations. It is clear that the negotiators rarely make statements and, if they speak, they do so by making gestures or insinuations. On this basis, it can be said that there is indeed progress in the committees' meetings, but it is difficult to ascertain its nature.

[Question] The Israeli side said this evening on Israeli radio that there has been tangible progress in the negotiations. What is your opinion as a journalist who is observing the negotiations closely?

[Answer] In fact, the atmosphere inspires this and so do some of the references made in the official statements. For example, in the statement that was issued today at the conclusion of today's meetings in Khaldah, we read the following: The expression "continued drafting work" means, in our view, that there are some points on which agreement has been reached -- so much so that the talks moved to the phase of drafting them into a formula on which the three parties agree. I would like to recall at this juncture the statement [Foreign] Minister Salim made during his recent press conference in which he said: The negotiations have made extensive progress and have traversed half the distance, contrary to what some persons in the press circles, or in some of these circles, as well as in the public circles in Lebanon and abroad believe.

[Question] Is it possible for us to know in what domains progress has been made thus far?

[Answer] It is very difficult to pinpoint the domains in which progress has thus far been made in a radical and firm manner, because the subjects that are being discussed b by the committees are numerous and diverse. Their discussions are extremely meticulous and extremely responsible. Therefore, nothing has thus far been leaked to the foreign journalists or observers on the question of the withdrawals. What has been leaked, rather what the journalists have been able to obtain unofficially, deals with the work of the second committee -- the committee for terminating the state of war. In this committee, according to the closing joint statement, the conferees began formulating the sentences, expressions, or the clauses on which an agreement has thus far been reached. In formulation, accuracy is very important in international agreements, as we are aware. Why? Because the negotiators fear mistakes, interpretations, or ambiguities in the adoption of certain words and in renouncing other words -- just as has happened, for example, in the clauses of the UN Security Council's resolution in the wake of the 1967 war between Israel and the Arabs, when Lord Carrington drafted the statement and disagreement arose over the Arabic translation. Some said that the statement dealt with withdrawals from the Arab territories.

Therefore, out of fear that what has happened to the Security Council resolution could happen in the future with regard to the Lebanese issue, the committees are diligently and extremely meticulously and carefully selecting legal and accurate expressions and words that bear no interpretation or explanation in the future other than the interpretation, explanation and the facts they contain publicly and linguistically.

[Question] Today we heard that the date of the meeting of the subcommittees has been changed from Tuesday to Friday. What are the reasons that have necessitated changing the date of the subcommittees' meetings?

[Answer] The official Lebanese spokesman, Dawud as-Sayigh, has said that the committee for mutual relations did not meet today because the committee chairman on the Lebanese side, Ambassador Ibrahim Kharmah, is indisposed. In fact, this committee did not meet today. The closing statement also said that this committee will meet at the next session in Netanya on Thursday.

[Question] The meetings will be held in Netanya?

[Answer] The next meetings will be held in Netanya and not in Qiryat Shemona. Some say that the change in the dates is due to the duties which the head of the Israeli delegation, Dr David Kimche, carries out in his capacity as director general of the Foreign Ministry and on the grounds that the meetings, which take place on 4 successive days a week, prevent Dr Kimche from carrying out his work at the Foreign Ministry and this is an upsetting the Israeli Foreign Minsitry's administration because it works half a day on Fridays and does not work on Saturdays. Since the committees meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thrusdays, which leaves the Foreign Ministry with 1/2 day on Sunday and half a day on Wednesday, there will be a deficiency in the Foreign Ministry's work because Dr Kimche is away from it. For this reason also, the dates of the future meetings have been set for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays instead of on Wednesdays.

[Question] There will be no meetings tomorrow?

[Answer] There will be no meetings by the subcommittees or the general committees tomorrow and the day after.

AFP: HADDAD EXPLAINS MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO SIDON

NC142032 Paris AFP in English 2017 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 14 (AFP) -- Pro-Israeli dissident Major Sa'd Haddad, leader of the "Free Lebanon Army," inaugurated a barracks here today for his force. The purpose, he told reporters, was to "restructure" the army. "The preparatory stage," he said, "is finished and we are now beginning the executive stage, the deployment of the 'Free Lebanon Army' on the ground." Asked if the action corresponded with the proclamation of "the state of free Lebanon" from An-Naqurah on the Lebanese-Israeli frontier to Sidon, he replied: "The state of free Lebanon was extending, and is extending from An-Naqurah to Sidon." Maj Haddad proclaimed the "state of free Lebanon" in 1978. It ran along the east-west frontier strip inside Lebanon and was 10 kms (about 6 miles) wide. Following the Israeli invasion last June, Maj Haddad several times announced the impending extension of his territory from An-Naqurah to Sidon, which is more than 45 kms (some 28 miles) from the frontier. The inauguration of the barracks, he said, was the equivalent of "the assumption of the security of south Lebanon by the free Lebanon army, following the exactions committed against the conquered parties and to prevent such aggressions."

SALIM DISUCSSES TALKS WITH ISRAEL, POLICY

NC101612 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1158 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Proceedings of news conference given by Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim at Sursuq Museum hall in Beirut on 10 February -- recorded]

[Text] Mr Chairman of the press association: I thank you for your kind speech and I hope to be up to your expectations.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would first like to thank the administration of this museum for allowing the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry to hold this news conference in this art exhibition. I also thank you newsmen for attending this conference and for your participation in it.

In my statement I will discuss Lebanon's position vis-a-vis the foreign challenges it is facing. I will then discuss with you in a frank and simple way the subjects you want to discuss, and I will answer the questions you wish to pose.

We are presently living through the atmosphere of negotiations for liberation. We are negotiating with Israel through the tripartite committee. We are negotiating directly with Syria and the Palestinian resistance. The aim of these negotiations is the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies and forces from Lebanon as quickly as possible.

We have reached a serious phase in our political existence in which anything and everything can happen. Therefore, the government should (?make) initiatives, speed up the negotiations, consolidate its relations with friendly states, and set on solid bases the landmarks of the modern and future Lebanese state.

The main support of our foreign policy is our domestic unity. This unity has been subjected to intensive foreign interference, and to intervention of a political, military, and ideological nature. The amazing thing vis-a-vis this interference is that Lebanon stood fast. Its cities have been destroyed, its villages have been deserted, and its people have been dispersed. However, Lebanon did not bow and did not fall. If wars and tragedies create enthusiasm for building homelands, no one is more worthy than us of an unabating enthusaism and of an untiring homeland.

The Lebanese people decided, on the verge of falling into the abyss the bitterness of which they have experienced, that there will be no return to the abyss. There should be no return to a time when we loved all nations but forgot Lebanon. We walked behind all ideologies, but we forgot Lebanon's ideology. We carried all banners, slogans, and symbols, but we forgot Lebanon's flag, its slogans, and its symbols. After this war we are more patriotic, more attached to our Lebanese values, more interested in ourselves, in our unity and in our entity, and even in our existence as a people and as a model for the universe. Thus everybody should excuse us and leave us alone to pick up the remains of this homeland and bind the wounds of this heroic people.

With this spirit embodied in our young president, Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, and in every word he says, in every stand he takes, and in every utterance he makes, we look forward to the future with faith and confidence. This is the spirit with which we are negotiating. We are negotiating without fear and without complexes because our cause is one of right, because our people are determined to achieve our right, and becasue the whole world is following our courageous march to restore this right.

We will first liberate the land, and hence the Lebanese shall be freed. Subsequently, the Lebanese family will meet to discuss, with some secrecy at home, the bases which the family must adopt to ensure justice, equality, and dignified life among its members.

Our country, whose sanctities have been violated, can no longer allow its sovereignty to be abused. Lebanon likewise cannot agree to be a base against others or to be used as a hostile passageway by others. The Lebanon of the future is resolved to have a strong army, quantitatively and qualitatively. Until the building of the army is realized in the coming months, Lebanon must seek the assistance of the UN emergency force and the multinational force and ask these forces to be present wherever it wants and whenever the need arises.

While Lebanon is seeking to fulfill its higher political interests, it is also seeking to fulfill the interests of the other Arab states. Lebanon is confident that these interests are interlinked now and will be in the future. Hence Lebanon decided that it will not be separated or isolated and that it will not allow anyone to separate or isolate it. In exploring its interests and in determining its stances, Lebanon consults on one, seeks the permission of no one, and receives orders from no one. The sublime Lebanese interest is the only thing that decides what we should or should not do. The decision is that of the government, which is constantly with the people and which responds to their aspirations.

The Lebanese people have been patient for a long time. They will remain patient if necessary. Our people are endowed with courage, determination, and endurance vis-a-vis hardships. The Lebanese people are prepared to sacrifice a great deal provided they know that their goals are behind their tears, that behind coffins their aspirations will be achieved, and that behind all this dispersion and loss there is a political national unity that will not be split from now on.

We are a people who prefer hardness to softness and rags to silk if our dignity is put to the test. If others have a redline, two or three redlines, we have many redlines. These include a redline in respect to our sovereignty, a redline in respect to our dignity, a redline in respect to our freedom, a redline in respect to the nature of our life, a redline in respect to our interest, a redline in respect to our economy, and a redline in respect to our relations with the Arab world. We will allow no one to penetrate these lines and expose us again to the abyss of nonexistence.

Lebanon, which is connected to the Arab society, will continue to be independent, to be its own master, and to be free forever. [applause] Lebanon is not passing through a phase on its way to extinction. It is not a country which shys away from its independence. It is a shaky entity waiting for a promised or awaited constancy. Lebanon is a national political and lasting entity. Individuals and groups have numerous allegiances, including allegiances to religion, to civilization, to language, and so on. It is incombent on the Lebanese to embrace these allegiances and to excel in them. Among all these allegiances, however, political allegiance is confined only to our homeland, Lebanon, a homeland that is independent and its own master.

Why does every compatriot in every country in the Arab world have the right to confine his pure political allegiance to his country while a Lebanese citizen does not have this right? Why does every citizen in every country in the Arab world have the right to have a civilian individuality connected with the political system prevalent in this country while a Lebanese citizen does not have such a right?

In the past we failed to lay down the basis on which nations are built. However, we will not fail from now on. In our capacity as a government in this heroic epoch of our history, we refuse to accept the landmarks of chaos and of estrangement and dissension. We know quite well the Lebanon which we want. We know its geographical, political, and cultural borders. We are also fully aware of the historic mission which Lebanon has been ordained to discharge in the area and in the world.

After all the ruination, destruction, destitution, torture, and murder wreaked in our land, we insist on firm guarantees that will ensure Lebanon's independence and strengthen its stability and that will open for the Lebanese vistas of a limitless future.

We want safeguards because the world has singled us out and dealt with us separately. The reason is that the Arabs have forgotten us and previous ties have proved futile.

This area is in the throes of an atmosphere imbued with fear. It is imperative that safeguards be secured that will ensure the stability of the Arab east. It is also imperative that safeguards of another political kind be secured that will guarantee the rights of groups and individuals within the states of this area.

At this point it is incumbent on our diplomacy to play a key role in specifying the existing problems and in proposing appropriate political solutions to fulfill the objective of consolidating a just political society in this area. It is also imperative that we safeguard the freedom, justness, and civilization of this society.

Safeguarding our national interests is the responsibility of the government. Should any party, sect, or group have viewpoints or stands, then let it declare these viewpoints and stands. Afterward, let these viewpoints and stands interact and bolster the government. But let the government's word be final. The reason is that, in view of its nature, the government views national interests from the perspective of the Lebanese people and from the perspective of the citizens in their capacity as citizens, not in light of their affiliation with parties, sects, ideologies, areas, schools of thought, or other groups.

The past harsh 8 years through which we have lived, and in which we still live, have proved that the interests of the Lebanese citizens cannot be completely safeguarded within the framework of these citizens' sects, parties, or areas. Nor is it possible for our national interests to be achieved, even through all the citizens' potentials, except through the state and its institutions. Therefore, let us change the individual, selfish, and Machiavellian course of past behavior. Let us say "yes" to the state, "yes" to the army, "yes" to the Internal Security Forces, and "yes" to law.

We are passing through a difficult phase because we are living through the transitional phase from a fragmented society to a unified society and from a frail plurality to a coherent plurality. Therefore, those who are working for the sake of Lebanon in this transitional phase have the right to say in all pride and dignity -- despite all the suffering, libel, and slander and all the tragedies that they have withstood: We have served this little homeland in the darkest phase of its history and we have made this little homeland a great one. We have made the weak strong and we have made this unstable homeland among the nations a leading, confident, and responsible homeland. [applause]

Now that I have explained for you the outlines of what I consider the basis of Lebanon's foreign policy, I am pleased to answer any questions. Therefore, please ask your questions.

[Question] Mr Minister, you have spoken about required guarantees for Lebanon. Is this question being raised with the superpowers?

[Answer] Lebanon, following the tragedies that have befallen it, wants international guarantees. It wants guarantees from the superpowers that will secure its stability and sovereignty for a long time to come. We will not accept a return to the previous phase. Lebanon can obtain several guarantees from several sources. We can obtain guarantees from the international community, from the superpowers, and from the states which have joined us in this crisis and which are assisting us in emerging from it. We can obtain guarantees within the framework of a large spectrum that we will propose and contribute toward drawing it up for this area as a whole.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The aim of the Lebanese question is to secure Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and dignity so that it will not weaken in the future. The aim of the Palestine question is the establishment of a Palestinian homeland in Palestine. The aim of the Palestine question is restoring the Palestinian people's dignity in their homeland of Palestine. Since the aim of the Palestine question is outside Lebanon, and since Lebanon's political aims are confiend to Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, dignity, and complete authority over its land, I say, therefore, that there is no contradiction between the Palestine question, as I have defined it, and the Lebanese question, as I have defined it.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The Lebanese family, as I said in my statement, must sit following the liberation and discuss with one another in complete freedom the future homeland we want. Members of the Lebanese family cannot speak freely, frankly, and secretly about the situation we are living today. The Lebanese atmosphere today is not Lebanese. Therefore, let us be clear. [Words indistinct] the Lebanese family and abuse the future of Lebanon, the Lebanese authorities, and Lebanese institutions. The government has a clear visualization in respect to the Lebanese domestic political society and in respect to the Middle Eastern society in which we want to live in freedom and dignity as an independent state.

[Question] Your Excellency Mr Minister, concerning current diplomatic moves, do they seek to secure the safeguards that you have mentioned?

[Answer] The safeguards about which I spoke figure as a topic on the agreed agenda. If you have noticed, the last topic on the agenda is the guarantees, and this topic was inserted by Lebanon.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] From a technical perspective [words indistinct] please.

[Question] Your Excellency Mr Minister ...

[Answer] Please proceed.

[Question] This question concerns the negotiations. The negotiations are being held in Qiryat Shemona today and Lebanon is following up the subject of the negotiations with Israel. Lebanon also goes to these negotiations and it always affirms that it goes to them with a clear-cut stand -- that there will be no concessions or foresaking of [words indistinct]. Israel will also remain in our territory, as is apparent through the statements that some Israeli officials have made. In your opinion, will we achieve any results through the U.S. role of partner in these negotiations in such a way that sovereignty (?will be saved) and will it remove the Israeli presence? Furthermore, how long will these negotiations last?

[Answer] We are now negotiating at the tripartite committee to bring about the evacuation of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. The negotiations have made progress at several points. Lebanon's stand is clear and Isaarael's stand is also clear. However, there is a wide gap between the Lebanese and Israeli positions. Through negotiator Morris Draper, the United States seeks to narrow the gap between the two stnds. I am in a position to say that the U.S. negotiator has succeeded to a large extent in surmounting some obstacles and that we have made some progress on some topics. Lebanon insists on not having on its territory early warning stations that could cover Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt and endanger the security of others. Lebanon refuses to accept even one Israeli soldier on its territory. Lebanon rejects everything that harms its sovereignty and dignity.

Furthermore, I believe that the U.S. negotiator has understood Lebanon's viewpoint. I also think that Israel has retracted from some of its demands in this domain, that is, the domain of legal arrangements. And we hope that negotiator Habib and negotiator Draper will return this weekend and that with them we will discuss the latest Israeli stand on security arrangements.

Concerning the framework of our relations with Israel, however, the gap is still wide. We do not want normalization. We do not want a peace treaty [mu'ahadat silm]. We are negotiating with Israel to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli army. We are also negotiating with Syria for the withdrawal of the Syrian Army. We are negotiating with the resistance for the withdrawal of the armed Palestinian resistance from Lebanon. Therefore, we see no reason why demands should be forwarded to us, while we are negotiating, to give guarantees or to take stands on things that do not concern us.

The war that has occurred on Lebanese territory occurred for security reasons. The reason for this war was not to ensure peace or a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel. Indeed, we are concerned about the withdrawal of armies. Furthermore, in Resolution 509 the Security Council unanimously determined that it is imperative for the Israeli army to withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally -- unconditionally. Therefore, we are negotiating on this basis and we stand prepared to ensure Israel's security in Lebanon. Furthermore, we hope Israel will also ensure Lebanon's security in Israel. I believe that this is also reciprocal between us and all parties with which we negotiate. If there are to be any conditions at all, then let these conditions be reciprocal. If there are to be any privileges, then let them be mutual privileges. However, we do not want to be dealt with separately or to be exploited as the weak party so that demands can be foisted on us only while no demands are foisted on other parties, as if we are a feeble and weakened country that can do nothing or that cannot stand on its own feet. We categorically reject these things.

[Question] Your Excellency Mr Minister, you have stated that Lebanon's is waiting for U.S. envoy Philip Habib to return here. Philip Habib is now in Israel, and as has been reported, he is carrying new proposals. He is on a mission somewhat different from the missions that he discharged previously. He is now in Israel and he is indeed facing a difficult political situation, particularly following the Kahan report, as you know. Will this subject affect the Habib mission and will Lebanon consequently be affected, and how?

[Answer] [Salim laughs] In the information media you always say that we are waiting for Habib's arrival and that we are waiting for Habib's departure. Whatever we are waiting for, we are waiting for Habib's arrival! This is not the stand of the government. The government is negotiating in a responsible way within the tripartite committee which meets periodically in Lebanon and Israel. We wait for neither the departure nor for the return of anyone.

The negotiations are in progress; they are continuing. Even if there are domestic political problems in Israel, I do not see why these problems should be an obstacle that would delay the negotiations with Lebanon. Habib's departure and Habib's arrival and Draper's departure and Draper's arrival are only a small part of the diplomatic move that is now being made within the tripartite committee. Therefore, no great hopes are pinned on the arrival of a person at a given time.

There are continuing and responsible negotiations at which we have made extensive progress. I believe that we have traversed half the distance. Furthermore, I believe that much more progress has been made than some people think. The Israelis have come to understand Lebanon's viewpoint and [words indistinct] (?has rights). For our part, we have come to understand some Israeli demands from the security perspective. We are trying, together with the third negotiator, to bring viewpoints closer through continuing negotiations. I am optimistic that there is no reason whatsoever for what has happened in Israel to affect the course of the negotiations -- and these negotiations must continue in a normal manner, as if no report has been written and as if no report has been submitted -- and nothing should stop the negotiations.

[Question] Also within this context, Your Excellency Mr Minister, [words indistinct, laughter] he has caught me. [laughter] Your Excellency Mr Minister, you have disclosed very important things -- and this strengthens hope.

[Answer] May God preserve you.

[Question] This thing boosts hope.

[Answer] May God preserve you.

[Question] This fosters hope.

[Answer] This stand...

[Question] This is a thing which strengthens hope.

[Answer] I have no choice in taking this stand.

[Question] The thing which you have revealed through the statement that you have just made.

[Answer] This is the stand [passage indistinct].

[Question] We have crossed most of the distance and there is now an understanding of the Lebanese demands [passage indistinct].

[Question] Your Excellency Mr Minister, then we continue with you. The incidents on the mountain have now eased comparatively from the military standpoint. However, the situation there continues to cause concern. As has been learned, Ambassador Habib has discussed with Begin the likelihood of the presence of Lebanese military authority in the mountain area. Has this matter come at the request of the Lebanses Government, and is it regarded as the beginning of the Lebanese authority's presence in all the areas that are witnessing a foreign military presence?

[Answer] Let our stand on this point be very clear: We are a country that wants the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces and armies from its territory. We are a country that wants an agreement on a specific date on which all the forces will withdraw from Lebanon -- all forces from Lebanon on a specific date. It is not possible that the state will implement a partial solution. It is impossible that the state will demand a partial solution. It is not possible that the state will conclude an agreement so that we will make the Israelis go back 10 km, then negotiate with the Israelis for another withdrawal, and then again negotiate so that the Israeli army will go back another 10 km. To us, this is absolutely out of the question.

We want to liberate all of Lebanon. We are concerned with one agreement with Israel in which we will agree on a specific date for the departure of the Israeli army from Lebanon. However, if any force in Lebanon wants on its own accord to withdraw from any quarter, from any village or from any city in Lebanon, then we will tell this force: "with godspeed," and we will immediately send in the Lebanese Army.

If Israel withdraws at 1240 today, then at 1246 the Lebanese Army will have deployed in every inch given up by Israel. This is the government's stand. However, the government is not negotiating with Israel, and it will not negotiate with anyone any partial withdrawals, except within the framework of a comprehensive agreement that will ensure the liberation of all of Lebanon. Otherwise, there is a great and a very real danger that a force might withdraw from here and a force might withdraw from there only for a force to position itself here and another to position itself there. This will lead to the partitioning of Lebanon, to a civil war, and to nonconfidence by one Lebanese faction in the other factions. And this is something which the government cannot possible think of or accept. However, I repeat: At the same time, it is impossible for the government to tell an occupier "do not get out." If the occupier wants to get out willingly, then we are behind him.

On Sunday an Israeli general said that he had asked the Lebanese Army to enter 'Alayh but that the Lebanese Army refused to do so. When we heard this news, the Lebanese Government contacted Ambassador Draper and we told him: We have heard the following statement. Please take note that, if the Israeli army withdraws from 'Alayh tonight, our army will be in 'Alayh before 0600 tomorrow. Please contact the Israelis and then tell us what their position is. The answer was relayed to us by Ambassador Draper at noon on Monday to the effect that Israel does not support the general's stand and that Israel is not prepared to withdraw from 'Alayh at this time. Therefore, this is (?our) stand.

[Question] Your Excellency Mr Minister, you have spoken of a specific partitioning if this foreign presence continues on Lebanese territory. There can also be no doubt that Lebanon is demanding that its issue by separated from the issue of the area. However, it is now noticed that important developments have occurred in the aftermath of President Reagan's recent plan -- and these developments tend to take the situation back to a point undesirable to Lebanon. Can we still wait, and will Lebanon remain united, or is there a possible danger of division and fragmentation -- God forbid -- as some people are saying?

[Answer] You are being very hard on me.

[Question] Yes.

[Answer] Is it not so? I have not said that if this situation persists, there will be a partitioning. I have said that if [partial] withdrawals occur, that will lead to deployment here and there. Then this state of affairs will lead to a partitioning. I have not said that the present situation, as it is now, leads to a partitioning. Naturally the present situation is serious, very serious. In the distant future it might lead to more factionalism, more tragedies, and more sacrifices. Also, the present situation might endanger Lebanon's entity. Lebanon's entity has been exposed to danger for 8, 9 years. Thank God, Lebanon has remained steadfast.

The changes that are taking place now in the area are encouraging for Lebanon's state of affairs. These are not negative changes. If there are Palestinian-Jordanian moves, then this is encouraging for Lebanon. If there is progress in the discussion of the Middle East issue, then this is useful for Lebanon. If there is an Arab rapprochement, and we now find ourselves in an atmosphere of an Arab rapprochement, this is useful for Lebanon. If there is steadfastness in Lebanon, despite all these tragedies, then this is useful for Lebanon. Therefore, when I look at the internal and external currents -- despite the domestic tragedies -- I believe that these developments are in Lebanon's interest and are useful for Lebanon.

[Question] At any rate, (?we should not) be pessimistic, Your Excellency Mr Minister. In other words, we hope that our words will not be construed to mean that we are so pessimistic concerning partitioning. Anyway, all observers are of the opinion that a solution is on its way for Lebanon. They are speaking of a solution with 2 months, that is, between this month and next month. Do you support this opinion, and how do you view the upcoming [word indistinct] solution?

[Answer] [Salim laughs] No opinion can be expressed about guessing. In other words, a person might do some guesswork and say: "By God, there will be a solution within 1 week, within 2 weeks, within 1 month." I say that if intentions are good, if the negotiations retain their momentum, and if the U.S. stand remains adamant, I believe that within a month or two we will be able to make extensive progress -- and we might reach an agreement within a month or two. (?By the same token), it is possible for us to reach agreement within 2 weeks if the two -- the Lebanese and Israeli sides -- take a decisive stand on the U.S. proposals. I believe that Lebanon is taking a decisive stand on the U.S. proposals. However, Israel will take some time to understand these proposals in view of the time needed for the establishment of a consensus in Israel on the objectives of these proposals. I believe that the United States is now forwarding practical and feasible proposals that are amenable to discussion and that are reasonable. We stand prepared to proceed on this path, and I believe that, after this period has ended -- and I hope that it will be very short following the reception of the [Kahan] report -- Israel will be able to take a decisive stand. I also hope that this stand will be a positive one as far as the ideas which the U.S. negotiator is now forwarding are concerned.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Is it possible for you to know something?

[Question] Yes, [words indistinct].

[Answer] You may know a great deal. You may also know a little. The great deal you may know is that the U.S. ideas are very close to the principled stands that Lebanon is taking and that they do not detract from Lebanese sovereignty or from Lebanese dignity. The U.S. ideas are incomplete in some respects. They are incomplete from the standpoint of the framework for relations. They are also incomplete concerning some topics. However, they might be complete as far as some topics are concerned. Therefore, it is possible for us to say that we might have achieved considerable progress if these ideas are accepted this weekend.

The little which you may know is that for us it is futile at this time to discuss details that might prove to be harmful and that cannot be useful.

AFP: EEC MAY ACT ON PALESTINIANS' SAFETY

NC141124 Paris AFP in English 1115 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Beirut, Feb 14 (AFP) -- The 10 members of the European Economic Community may take an initiative to ensure protection of Palestinian civilians in Lebanon, a Western diplomatic sources said here today. The initiative may be in the form of a solemn declaration calling for an undertaking to guarantee the security of all refugees.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the second detachment of the French reinforcements of the multinational peacekeeping force arrived here today on the troop ship La Dives. The 160 men belonging to the 9th Division of the marine infantry brought the total number of French troops here to 2,000, the largest contingent in the multinational force.

The EEC initiative comes at a time when fears are mounting for the safety of refugees here. The director of the relief organisation for Palestinian refugees (UNWRA), Olof Rydbeck, recently said he was deeply concerned at the deterioration of security of Palestinian refugees. He repeated that Israel was responsible for the welfare of Palestinian civilians in south Lebanon, particularly after the recent discovery of 15 bodies of Palestinians near the 'Ayn al-Hulwa camp. UNRWA reported last week that 15 bodies were found in two weeks near the camp at Sidon in south Lebanon. Three of the bodies had been burned. One victim came from the camp at Al-Burj Ash-Shamali, about 40 kms (25 miles) south of Sidon. The whole of south Lebanon is occupied by the Israeli army.

UNWRA also said the Christian militia had threatened Palestinians living in the area, forcing them to leave their houses within 24 hours and move to camps. Ten families in the mountains and 13 others in the town of Sidon had received threats.

The press today quoted Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan as saying he had asked the special U.S. envoy Philip Habib to "raise the question of acts of aggression being suffered by Lebanese and Palestinian civilians in south Lebanon and to insist that Israeli forces face up to their responsibilities as laid down by international conventions." He also said he had broached the problem with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Nabih Barri, secretary of the political-religious Shi'ite movement "Amal," sent an open letter to the government, published in the press yesterday, which said Shi'ite families were being forced to leave the areas south and north east of Sidon. He also said several Shi'ites had been killed, pupils at certain schools had been intimidated, and some were refusing to allow children to take Friday off, the Shi'ite day of prayer, on the decision of the head teacher. Mr. Barri told a meeting yesterday that Israel was responsible for these practises, because "it wants to allow only one religion in each area, and by dividing they want to rule."

CABINET CHARGES ARMY WITH MAINTAINING SECURITY

NC142146 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] During its extraordinary meeting this evening under President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers, the Cabinet, in accordance with a legislative decree, charged the army with the maintenance of security in a specified area or areas and with the protection of the state's security against any action that is harmful to the state's safety and interests. The Cabinet placed under the disposal of the army commander all the armed forces stipulated in Article 1 of the defense law issued on 24 March 1979.

These forces shall discharge their task on orders from the army commander, who will take all extraordinary measures to preserve security, particularly the searching for and confiscation of weapons and ammunition; the searching of buildings and all other places after the approval of the public prosecution concerned; the observation of the ports and ships in territorial waters; the observation of the foreigners' entry into and exit from Lebanon; the banning of public meetings that are prejudicial to security or that are of a military nature; the pursuing of those who disturb security and referring them to the judiciary within 5 days from the date they are detained; and the combatting of smuggling.

All those who commit acts that disturb security shall be referred to the military courts by a decision from the army commander.

The decree stipulates that during the period the army is charged with the maintenance of security, the powers of the military council shall be transferred to the army commander in an exceptional manner [bi surah istithan'iyah].

'GREATER BEIRUT' ARMY DEPLOYMENT REPORTED

NC150720 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Greater Beirut was born at 0030, when President Amin al-Jumayyil ordered three brigades that had grouped on the airport road to deploy in the greater capital area. The president of the republic had earlier arrived at the grouping point in his military uniform of army supreme commander. The president was accompanied by General Tannus, the army commander, and Brigadier General Nabil al-Hakim.

President al-Jumayyil addressed the officers and men for an hour, explaining the dimensions of the task which they were assigned to discharge. He emphasized that the army is the party of the people and of the state and that it groups all factions. He said: The army is required to discharge its duty, because we alone can fend for ourselves. The president of the republic then spoke of the responsibility of saving and liberating Lebanon. He said: The world is watching our movement with open eyes. There are friends who expect us to succeed -- and your role is to succeed.

He added: This is an hour of pride, and the world has been waiting for this step. Therefore, face up to the task and make the citizens feel the state's presence. This is the first time that a purely Lebanese decision has been made, without this decision having been influenced by any quarter.

[The president said:] The world is looking at us to see for itself the value of the Lebanese state and to see whether this state is able to rise from its fall. So, preserve this value and develop it, because you must make all the citizens feel that you stand on their side and that you are their army. Affirm to the citizens that the army is the whole of Lebanon and that you do not support one faction against another.

At 0115, the army began moving to take up its specified positions and it deployed at the crack of dawn. The army positioned itself at the Nahr al-Mawt bridge in the north, at Kafr Shima and Wadi Shuhrur in the south, at 'Arayya in the east, and at the southern boundary of Beirut airport in the West.

KHADDAM WELCOMES FRENCH EXTERNAL RELATIONS MINISTER

JN141327 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, arrived in Damascus this afternoon. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, welcomed him at Damascus International Airport.

Radio Monte Carlo on Visit

JN141259 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Telephone dispatch from Damascus by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris--live or recorded]

[Text] A short while ago French Exernal Relations Minister Claude Cheysson arrived from Baghdad on a 24-hour visit to the Syrian capital at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Cheysson was welcomed by Khaddam, ranking Syrian officials, the French ambassador, and the heads of French companies operating in Syria.

An informed French diplomatic source told me that Claude Cheysson's visit to Syria can be basically described as a visit of political talks, because Cheysson intends to raise all the basic issues in the region without exception. Moreover, an important part of the talks will focus on the Syrian-Iraqi relations, the closure of the Iraqi pipelines via Syria to the Mediterranean, and the situation in Lebanon. These talks are scheduled to begin at 1700 today at the Syrian Foreign Ministry. The French ambassador will then give a reception at the embassy. The members of the large French community in Syria have been invited to this reception. This will be followed by an official dinner banquet to be given by Khaddam in honor of Cheysson in the Damascus Meridien Hotel, where Cheysson will stay during his visit.

President Hafiz al-Asad is expected to receive the French external relations minister tomorrow morning, Tuesday. This will be followed by a press conference before the minister flies back to Paris tomorrow afrernoon.

The importance of this visit lies in the fact that it is a main link in the Syrian-French political contacts since Paris resumed its contacts with Damascus at the beginning of last summer after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Khaddam Confers With Cheysson

JN141930 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] At 1700 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, at the Foreign Ministry.

The talks dealt with the current international and Middle East situation and bilateral relations.

This evening, Khaddam gave a dinner banquet in honor of Cheysson and his delegation. Several ministers, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and the French ambassador in Damascus attended the banquet.

TALKS WITH LEBANON RESUME IN KHALDAH 14 FEB

TA140818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] In Khaldah this morning, the Israeli, Lebanese, and U.S. delegations began formulating the final wording of those military issues agreed upon. Our correspondent Eli'ezer Pne-Gil reports that these refer to the types of weapons and military equipment that may be introduced into the security areas and the Israeli control over Lebanese airspace and terrirorial waters. The subcommittees are scheduled to convene this afternoon to continue discussing the points still in dispute such as the early warning stations, their manning, the stationing of UN troops in the security zone, and control over the refugee camps.

Session Ends; Progress Noted

TA141557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Another session of the talks between Israel and Lebanon ended a short while ago in Khaldah. According to Israeli sources, progress was achieved in the talks today, and the drafting of the main clauses dealing with the termination of the state of war was completed. Meanwhile, differences remained concerning the warning stations and the future of UNIFIL troops in the security areas. Our correspondent Eli'ezer Pne-Gil reports from Khaldah:

In today's round of talks, the negotiating sides did not succeed in reaching agreement on the main disputed issues: the warning stations and the stationing of UNIFIL soldiers. Accordingly, most of the differences of opinion emerged in the subcommittee on security arrangements. Israel repeated its demands to maintain warning stations in the security zones, Lebanon repeated its refusal to comply with the Israeli demands, and the United States again raised its own compromise proposals involving the manning of the stations by UNIFIL soldiers.

Philip Habib's proposal concerning a three-staged withdrawal was not discussed today. Apparently, it will be discussed at a higher level. One of the points on which agreement was reached was the fate of Major Haddad's forces in southern Lebanon. However, there is as yet no written agreement on this matter either.

Progress was achieved in the subcommittee on terminating the state of war, according to the Israeli delegation's spokesman, Yosi 'Amihud. The sides dealt today with completing the drafting of the formulating clauses connected with this matter, such as arms restrictions and the types of weapons the sides will have in the security zones.

[Begin 'Amihud recording] The atmosphere in the subcommittees today was definitely constructive. Everybody tried to arrive at formulas acceptable to everyone, and one could say that they definitely succeeded in doing so. There are still clauses that require much work. Therefore, we will meet again and again. However, if we continue to work as we did today, all chances are that we will reach positive results. [end recording]

The normalization subcommittee, or as it is called officially, the subcommittee on mutual relations between Israel and Lebanon, did not convene today because its chairman was sick. We should note that the commission of inquiry's report or the developments that followed it in Israel were not mentioned today even in informal talks. Israeli sources in the committee claimed that this matter had no impact on the pace of progress in the talks.

BEGIN, PERES ADDRESS 14 FEBRUARY KNESSET SESSION

TA141624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] In today's Knesset debate about the changes in the Cabinet, the speakers condemned the murder of Emil Greenzwieg and called for a calming of spirits. The prime minister asked the Knesset briefly to approve the change in Ari'el Sharon's task. Shim'on Peres sharply criticized the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the outgoing defense minister. He said the military echelons had paid the full price demanded by the commission while the political echelons had given itself a partial amnesty. The Cabinet, Peres said, would win the Knesset vote this evening, but the country would be given a model of incorrect behavior in a democracy. Shim'on Peres quoted Menahem Begin when he argued with the Alignment government after the Agranat committee's report. Menahem Begin then insisted: Is the Alignment government's defense minister resigning and the prime minister to whom he is subordinate not resigning? Shim'on Peres said: I heard that after the report was received, the prime minister wanted to resign, but his colleagues stopped him from doing that.

To this, Menahem Begin answered: That is not true.

Shim'on Peres recalled that the Kahan commission had determined that the foreign minister had erred when he did not take seriously what Minister Tzipori had told him. The commission determined that the foreign minister had neither taken in nor understood the words. How is it possible, Peres asked, that the foreign minister does not understand such things? Shim'on Peres concluded his speech with the question: Is there no ministerial responsibility in Israel? And will the amount of self-pity overcome the gravity of the judgment?

Our Knesset correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli notes that Minister Sharon was content to listen to Menahem Begin and before Shim'on Peres began his remarks, he left the plenum.

Further on Debate

TA142041 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] The factional debate in the Knesset over the prime minister's announcement about the reshuffle in the Defense Ministry has now been going on for 4 hours. Right now the prime minister is scheduled to conclude the debate and we are moving over to a direct broadcast from our Knesset correspondent Yayim Yavin:

The prime minister, in his opening words, leaned on the podium, denied the report published by the TIME weekly that former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon had visited Bashir al-Jumayyil's family and, as it were, the murder in the refugee camps was planned or revenge was discussed. Right now the prime minister is beginning his reply:

He highly praised the defense minister and now we have reached his remarks about the chief of staff. Let's listen.

[Begin -- picked up in midsentence] ... there have been very few soldiers like him in the entire world, who not only gives orders, but also educates and trains. It was difficult, very difficult, and so we had so many hesitations and so we considered and reconsidered. But the Cabinet had appointed the commission of inquiry. The defense minister and also the chief of staff, who speaks in the name of the army commanders, took upon themselves the commission's voice, that is, the commission's judgment and the Cabinet took upon itself the judgment of the commission's recommendations.

That is how one has to act in a country of law and a democratic country, and with heartache, otherwise we could not so that all should know that it was not in vain that the commission was appointed, but in order to accept its recommendations, for the State of Israel is a democratic state, free and democratic. [sentence as heard].

Knesset Member Peres today quoted me in connection with the Agranat committee. Today, too, I am prepared to repeat those remarks. But what sort of a comparison is that? First of all, between the events -- how can it be compared? Nothing human is alien to us. We were then shocked to the depths of our hearts when we heard about the massacre committed in the two camps in Beirut. I repeat: I am prepared to say this in any language of internal recognition of the truth and without using the word lightly, for nobody even imagined that that tragic event would occur in the camps. The fact is that the commission itself determined there was no conspiracy, conspiracy [last word in English], nor was there any intention and there was no training by the IDF and there was no order. The fact that the Cabinet itself says that the intention was to save the blood of Israeli soldiers, what is that, a sin? When our army fights and gives such precious sacrifices for the sake of such an objective, when terrorists are murdered, 2,000 terrorists remained in the camps, because others also fought, nobody imagined such horrors. We called it a horror from the first moment. But as we see it, there was no alternative but to accept the recommendations.

The Yom Kippur war -- we faced a danger to our very existence and what happened that Sabbath, I do not want to relate now, what was disclosed to the commission, I have read all the report, that, too, I will not relate, because most of it is still classified. Such a comparison is being made. Even from the aspect of the reports, there is a difference. I say this with heartache, but it is a fact that while the Agranat committee did not deal with the political echelons at all, this commission did deal with them and made recommendations. Again I say: very painful ones. Woe to us that we had to adopt them, but I have been firm all my life, but you want us to go beyond the recommendations. In fact, you want us not to keep what the commission decided. Why should we do that? Why?

[Yavin] And so the prime minister continues to argue with Knesset Member Shim'on Peres who sharply criticized the fact that the prime minister accepted the Agranat committee's recommendations at the time and put the blame, demanded responsibility from the government, while he is ignoring the entire Cabinet's responsibility regarding the Kahan commission's recommendations. The prime minister undoubtedly will continue to argue with Knesset Member Peres for a long time still. I propose that at this stage we return the broadcast to the studio and return here if there is still time for the voting or for the conclusion of the prime minister's remarks.

KNESSET APPROVES SHARON TRANSFER 61 TO 56

TA142047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] The Knesset this evening approved the prime minister's decision that Minister Sharon be transferred from the Defense Ministry and from now on will be a minister without portfolio. Sixty-one coalition members supported the announcement, 56 of the opposition opposed it, and only MK Dror Zeigerman abstained. Knesset members from the Tehiya faction and MK Berman voted with the coalition. Ministers Ehrlich and Ne'eman were not present to vote.

DEFENSE MINISTER-DESIGNATE ARENS INTERVIEWED

TA141743 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Interview with Ambassador Moshe Arens by Israel radio correspondent Shalom Qital on 14 February -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Ambassador, how long will it be before you become the defense minister?

[Answer] I cannot answer that question. I understand that there are still several political, perhaps parliamentary moves that must be made in Israel. I presume that it will be in the relatively near future.

[Question] For 3 days you have remained silent, since you were offered the post. Perhaps you will let us know a little of how matters went, who appealed to you, whether you agreed at once or did not agree?

[Answer] There are many secrets here. The post was offered to me by the prime minister and when it was offered to me, I agreed.

[Question] You agreed at once.

[Answer] I agreed at once.

[Question] How do you see your entry into the post during such a period, after such a report, after the shock the political and military establishments in Israel have suffered? With what thoughts are you entering this post?

[Answer] That cannot be explained and described briefly. I think that at any time whatsoever, certainly in the current situation, too, the post of defense minister is one with very heavy responsibility and I think that everyone who enters that post and that certainly includes me, at this stage, if he enters the post he enters it with a full feeling of the weightiness of the responsibility.

[Question] In the past you were offered the post and you refused, you have already explained that you refused then because the circumstances were different, you had voted against the Camp David agreements and then there was the question of the evacuation of the Sinai. Now you are accepting the post when the circumstances have changed, but is there nothing about which you disagree with the government, or are you taking the post while completely identifying with the issues at dispute in Israel? With the government's position on those issues?

[Answer] Politically, I support the government. I am a Likud member and a member of the Herut movement and I support the policy of Prime Minister Menahem Begin unhesitatingly.

[Question] You have no problems?

[Answer] I have just said...

[Question] Do you not think that the year you have been here and your contact with the U.S. Administration, with the Congress, with the public, have changed several things, several views for you?

[Answer] I would not want to tell you that I have not learned anything from the year I have spent here, but my basic views on the issue of Israel's security-political policy have not changed.

[Question] Can you, at this stage, tell us what your immediate plans for the Defense Ministry are? Are there things you have already managed to think about, to organize?

[Answer] No, on this issue I cannot speak with you at this stage.

[Question] Regarding personal changes, there are already names being mentioned, candidates for senior IDF posts, the chief of staff, the head of the intelligence branch. What is your position on these issues?

[Answer] I will note down your proposals on a piece of paper and look at them.

[Question] Do you think that it will be possible to conclude this without you or do you want to participate in it?

[Answer] Give me your proposals?

[Question] Yes. Does the fact that Ari'el Sharon is remaining in the Cabinet disturb you, Mr Ambassador? Will this not make it difficult for you to fulfill the post?

[Answer] No, it does not disturb me and it will not make things difficult for me.

[Question] Outgoing Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said today, when he left the Defense Ministry, that one of the things that disturbs him is the fact that the atmosphere in Israel is causing Israel to lose its deterrent power. Do you think that the atmosphere in Israel is causing Israel to lose its deterrent power?

[Answer] Ask me that question when I manage to breathe a little of the air and atmosphere in Israel.

[Qital] Mr Ambassador, thank you very much.

On U.S. Attitudes, Lebanon

TA142015 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Interview with Defense Minister-designate Moshe Arens by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram in Washington on 14 February -- videotaped]

[Text] [Question] Here in Washington the hope is being expressed that it will be easier to reach understanding with you after a year of service in the United States. It is being recalled that you were quoted at one time -- at least this is what was leaked to the press -- as having proposed freezing the settlements for a limited period of time in order to make it possible to hold the negotiations over peace in the Middle East. In your estimation, will it really be easier for you than for your predecessor?

[Answer] First of all, I do not need to tell you, Elimelekh, that not every report that appears in a paper should be believed, and this pertains to that report you have just quoted as saying that I had sent a cable to Israel about the settlements issue.

If it will be easier with me -- I do not know -- if there are such views, I do not know whether to accept them as a compliment or a slap in the face that could disrupt my views in Israel. I am not sure that I see myself as a man with whom it is easy to get on when it is a question of principles. I think that it is easier to get on with others if it is not a question of principles. The trouble is that in security policy it is generally a question of principles.

[Question] In other words, it is not to be assumed that the expectations in the United States will be fulfilled?

[Answer] I am not quite sure what expectations you mean. I have known them for a year; they have known me for the last year; I do not think there are any grounds for expectations that I am a compromiser. I have not made compromises with them during the period I have been here.

[Question] In your assessment, will it be possible to achieve an agreement about the evacuation of the foreign forces from Lebanon within a relatively short period of time?

[Answer] You know, there is a U.S. saying that it takes two to tango. In the case of the negotiations in Lebanon, it takes three and maybe even five. If your question is can we reach an agreement with the Lebanese about Israeli-Lebanese relations, including our willingness to evacuate Lebanon, I think that has quite a good chance. Whether the Syrians will be prepared to evacuate the territory at the same time is not at all clear at this stage.

[Question] Ari'el Sharon claimed the Americans are in fact interfering with an agreement. Do you think so?

[Answer] I do not know. I would not say that. I have not been directly involved in the talks as Arik Sharon was. That is a question you will be able to ask me in about a month.

[Question] In any event, what is your feeling about the contacts you have had with the administration?

[Answer] The administration, of course, has its own interests. It wants to see Lebanon as free as us. It wants to guarantee that Lebanon will not serve again in the future as a base for terrorist attacks against Israel. The ways it thinks are suitable to achieve that objective are not always the ways we see as correct, and I lean toward telling them, I think without being too boastful, that when it is a question of a war against terrorism, when it is a question of those measures that must be taken to guarantee that the PLO will not return to southern Lebanon after our evaucation, we may be more expert in that issue than they are.

[Question] Do you regard U.S. involvement in the negotiations in Lebanon positively?

[Answer] I think that in the past there have been cases in which the Americans helped us. There is no doubt that there is a very broad base of common interests, of common goals. Sometimes we tend to forget this because of the differences of opinion we have over tactics and I think that they can help. They can, but that does not mean they will always help.

[Question] Professor Arens, did you have any reservations or hesitations before you gave your agreement to serve in the post of defense minister?

[Answer] In principle, of course, the answer to that is yes, taking the heavy responsibility connected with fulfilling that important role, that difficult role into account, but they were not the type of hesitations to cause me to postpone my reply. I answered immediately in the positive.

[Question] All those stories about your reservations about Sharon's being part of the Cabinet, do they have any foundation?

[Answer] They are quite unfounded.

INITIAL REACTION TO ARENS APPOINTMENT NOTED

TA141150 Tel Aviv IDF Radio In Hebrew 1105 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Mishori -- recorded]

[Excerpts] There was nothing that could have been more surely anticipated than this move, Knesset members have said about Moshe Arens' agreement to serve as defense minister in the Israeli Government. The reactions by the parties are also that predictable. First, in the Likud, the Herut faction is pleased. There too people have been wondering what kind of hue Arens would tint the government's policy and what ramifications his appointment would have on what is called the internal struggle in Herut. Still, generally speaking, the appointment has been welcomed.

It looks as though the Liberal faction will not cause any trouble over this. Its chairperson, Sara Doron, said: He will make a good defense minister.

Again, as could be expected, people in the Alignment have said that this would not change the Alignment's attitude toward the government.

Finally, let us note in the Tehiya faction, which opposed the transfer of the post of defense minister to the prime minister. There was absolutely no need for that, MK Ge'ula Kohan said.

15 Feb Editorials

TA150917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] MA'ARIV says that there is no grounds for the U.S. hope that Israel will soften its positions now that Sharon is leaving the Defense Ministry and Moshe Arens has been appointed to replace him. Nor is there any foundation to the outgoing defense minister's fear that because of the atmosphere in Israel the IDF's deterrent power has diminished. The newspaper hopes that the new defense minister will not be in a state of war with the media, something that helped previous governments win support on security matters.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT praises Professor Moshe Arens, saying he has staying power and will be able to command honor and authority in the IDF. It is good that the ambassador decided immediately to accept the post. The more the system increases its activity, the earlier quiet will come.

SHARON WILL NOT ASK BEGIN FOR SPECIFIC JOB

TA141748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Ari'el Sharon does not intend to ask the prime minister to charge him with any specific task or function. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that neither is Menahem Begin considering taking such a step regarding Sharon.

PERES LAUDS ARMY REACTION TO COMMISSION FINDINGS

TA131914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres this evening praised the reaction of the military to the findings of the Kahan commission. He said that while the political level is shirking the implementation of the findings, the military level is taking its punishment with commendable dignity. The chief of staff's order of the day, Shim'on Peres said, is an educational document and the behavior of Yehoshu'a Sagi and 'Amos Yaron is an example to the young generation, an outstanding example compared with the behavior of the political level, which is trying to save its neck. Peres recalled that in his initial comment Ari'el Sharon had suggested that the findings be applied to the political rather than the military level, but ultimately things turned upside down. Only the military level is carrying out the findings in spirit. Peres was speaking at a gathering of the senior staff of Kupat Holim workers in Tel Aviv.

'THOUSANDS' DEMONSTRATE AGAINST LEBANON OCCUPATION

TA122109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Thousands of members of the Committee Against the War in Lebanon demonstrated in Tel Aviv today. Some of the speakers at the demonstration demanded that the prime minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, and the chief of staff be tried. They also called for Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

MA'ARIV SEES CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN POSITION

TA131012 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] A change in Egypt's position regarding the resumption of the normalization process with Israel could be discerned last week upon the advent of the renewal of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee's activities.

After a break of 4 months, the two military committees again met for 2 days' deliberations in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] command. The meeting was held last Tuesday and Wednesday. The Israeli delegation was headed by Brigadier General Dov Si'on and the Egyptian delegation was headed by Admiral Hamdi Mushin.

In the deliberations, many subjects pertaining to bilateral relations were discussed in connection with the military agreements. Among other things, the Egyptians promised to reerect the fence in Tabah and to avoid extraordinary activity there. It emerged that the affair was the result of local initiative and both parties regarded the incident as an accident. Also deliberated were the violations of the peace treaty and the possibility that searches for missing persons will resume, as will the return of stolen vehicles to Israel and everything pertaining to monuments commemorating the fallen IDF soldiers that were built in territory held by Egypt.

UGANDA

UN SECRETARY GENERAL SPEAKS IN KAMPALA

AB140953 Paris AFP in English 0943 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Kampala, Feb 14 (AFP) -- United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has urged African nations to apply the energy, resolve and idealism which liberated them from colonial rule for the forging of political unity and ending under-development. "The challenge is to give African fraternity a concrete political and economic content," the secretary general said last night at a banquet in Kampala. "I am confident wise counsel will end current divisions and lay the foundations for meaningful and effective cooperation," Mr Perez de Cuellar said.

The secretary general is today on the second day of a two-day visit to Uganda, his last stop in an eight-nation African tour, and the dinner in Kampala last night was his last official engagement of the tour before he flies to Geneva this afternoon. Mr Perez de Cuellar used the speech last night to sum up his trip to the continent.

He said there was universal agreement on the goal of self-determination and independence for a united Namibia, and denounced the introduction of "issues extraneous to Namibia's independence" into negotiations for an independence settlement. The secretary general was clearly referring to a demand by Washington and Pretoria for the departure of Cuban troops from Angola as a condition of a Namibian settlement. This condition is outside United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia which outlines a scheme for moves toward independence. Mr Perez de Cuellar said successful implementation of Resolution 435 would brighten prospects for dealing with apartheid and South Africa's policy of seeking to destabilise the economies of neighbouring states.

The secretary general also deplored the plight of Africa's multitude of refugees, which he said continues to be of intense concern to the United Nations. "Nearly one-half of the world's refugee population is located in Africa, mainly in countries which are classified as the least developed," he said. He said it was important to provide for refugees' basic humanitarian needs, but called for equal attention to be addressed to finding durable solutions to the problem, which burdened the frail economies in Africa.

Addressing himself specifically to the situation in Uganda, he said the United Nations would do anything possible to help the Ugandan Government to cope with its "great human problem" regarding refugees. The secretary general said he was aware of the acute problems and difficulties of reconstruction and reconciliation in Uganda and promised that the United Nations would do all it could to help the government in this area. He said he hoped that the positive interest in Uganda shown by the international community recently would result in additional economic assistance to repair the east African state's shattered economy.

Ugandan President Milton Obote, speaking earlier, said Uganda did not seek to be treated as a special case, but called for more help to the country, which was starved of aid during the 1970's when Idi Amin was in power. The Ugandan leader, like all his counter-parts during the secretary general's eight-state safari, denounced South Africa's linking of Namibia's independence with an evacuation of Cuban troops from Angola.

Mr Perez de Cuellar's tour, which was largely concerned with the Namibian question, took him successively to Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania and Kenya before Uganda.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

HEAD OF STATE RESHUFFLES CABINET 10 FEB

AB111055 Paris AFP in French 1004 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Bangui, 11 Feb (AFP) -- The CAR head of state, General Andre Kolingba, on Thursday reshuffled the Military Committee of National Redress [CMRN] which was set up on 1 September 1981, it has been learned in Bangui.

The new team is made up of 17 members:

Chairman of the CMRN, head of state and government, minister of national defense and veterans affairs,

Chief of general staff:	General Andre Kolingba
Ministers of State:	
Minister of state in charge of agriculture and stockbreeding:	Lieutenant Colonel Alphonse Gombadi
Minister of state in charge of economy and finance:	Lieutenant General Sylvestre Bangui
Minister of state in charge of public works and urbanism:	Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Mapouka
Minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and international cooperation:	Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Louis Gervil-Yambala
Ministers:	
Minister of energy and water resources:	Brigadier General Abel Nado
Minister of justice, keeper of the seals:	Brigadier General Xavier-Sylvestre Yangongo
Minister of interior:	Lieutenant Colonel Christophe Grelombe
Minister of water, forests, hunting, fishing and tourism:	Lieutenant Colonel Sebastien Guipi
Minister of national education:	Lieutenant Colonel Antoine Gambi
Minister of civil service, labor and social security:	Quartermaster Alphonse Kongolo-Mbomy
Minister of public health:	Commander Gabriel Ngaindiro
Minister of transport and civil aviation:	Commander Evariste Konzale
Minister of posts and telecommunications:	Commander Emmanuel Mokalo
Minister of commerce and industry:	Captain Denis Wangao
Minister of social affairs:	Captain Gaston Gambo
Minister in charge of the general secretariat of the government and information:	Captain Guillaume Lapo
Secretaries of state:	
Secretary of state for national defense and veterans affairs:	Lieutenant Colonel Francois Diallo

GHANA

RAWLINGS ADDRESS ON NIGERIAN DEPORTEES 11 FEB

AB112150 Accra Domestic Service in English 2015 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Ghanaian head of state Jerry John Rawlings' speech in Accra on 11 February 1983 -- live]

[Excerpt] Fellow countrymen and women, good evening. I have come to the studio tonight to talk to you about a matter of national concern. I am referring to the question of the Ghanaian deportees from Nigeria and the present consequences arising out of the sudden influx of such a large number of people into the country.

As you all know, not long ago the Nigerian Government gave an order that all aliens without residence permits should leave the country within 2 weeks. Since then a lot of appeals from international organizations -- such as the United Nations Organization, the OAU, the All African Trade Union organization, as well as individual governments both in an outside Africa -- have been made to the Nigerian authorities to exercise restraint and to arrange for a more orderly departure so as to reduce the suffering and trail of the individuals involved. Some of these appeals were made publicly, others tried to intervene quietly in a behind-of-scene diplomacy. These appeals were motivated solely by humanitarian concern. No one to my (?knowledge) has questioned the right of the Nigerian Government to ask fellow Africans without valid residential permits to leave the country.

I regret to say, however, that in spite of these appeals, the Nigerian Government remained unmoved. The result of this was that we were faced with the (?abundant) task of having to arrange for the evacuation of 1.2 million Ghanaians in 2 weeks. It must be remembered that difficult as it is, the evacuation is just the initial task. A more difficult problem is the rehabilitation and integration of the returnees into Ghanaian life and society.

Fellow countrymen and women, this is perhaps the largest movement of human beings to be recorded in peace time in recent years. It is important to remember that we have so far managed to bring within our borders about 90 percent of the people affected without much incident. We have now passed the main peak and it is only a small trickle which is now coming in. We have sent our officials to Lagos to negotiate with their Nigerian counterparts on arrangements for the humane treatment and speedy evacuation of all those who are affected by the quit order but who have not yet left Nigeria. Arrangements are also being made for the payment of salaries of those who returned without being paid. Moves are also underway to recover Ghanaian properties left behind.

I will appeal to relatives and families to be patient. Ghana is their home and we shall do everything possible to bring them home.

Many of you might have seen some of the deportees returning home in articulated trucks and lorries or buses. They looked dirty and hungry. Some have suffered severe deprivation on their way. Others have suffered physical injuries. Some are badly shaken psychologically. A few have died on their way. We need not go into the revolting and nauseating details of the harrowing experiences which some of them underwent. The memory of these experiences will live with them for a long time, and some of us. Such is the nature of human experience. It will take some time before we can nurse and bring all these people back to a healthy, normal human life contributing their own to the health and progress of this country.

Countrymen and women, I hope you will all agree with me that for any country to be called upon to deal with such sudden influx of large numbers of people will even at the best of times impose severe strains on its national economy.

And for a country like ours whose economy is already in crisis, the effect of the sudden return of the deportees can be very severe indeed. Last year, for instance, our record of food grains, particularly for the northern and upper regions, was bad. In addition, the maize crop in Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo regions also suffered shortfalls. These were due largely to adverse weather conditions in our rainfed agriculture. This has already pushed up the price of maize to intolerable levels.

Our estimated cereal needs to tide us over till the next harvest stand at almost 400,000 metric tons. With the arrival of the deportees we would need an additional 100,000 metric tons of cereals to cope with the situation. Even if we can mobilize everyone into agriculture -- which we obviously cannot due to the structure of the deported population and our own narrow resource pace -- it will take some time before results will be shown. Meanwhile, we will need food, medical supplies, and other welfare facilities. These cannot wait. We are therefore appealing to the international community, foreign governments, voluntary agencies, and religious organizations to assist with food, particularly high-protein food and cereals, medicines, blankets, agricultural implements, tents, money, etc.

After all, most of our citizens who were given the necessary skills using the taxpayers money in this country are rendering the necessary services outside Ghana. We are also appealing to fellow Ghanaians to come forward to also assist by devoting their time, skills, energy, and material resources like food, money, medicines, lorries, and trucks to help both in the evacuation and in the resettlement of our brothers and sisters. It is indeed gratifying to note that some of our doctors have already started to do this by treating the sick among the deportees free of charge -- a great deal of which, in fact, was also happening in Nigeria. It is noteworthy also that some of the voluntary organizations have already started to airlift into the country medicines and badly needed relief supplies for the use of the returnees. Some of these people have lost all their personal belongings. Some have suffered physical injuries. Information reaching us indicates that some were even prematurely discharged from hospitals so that they could leave the country. Some were even stripped of their pajamas. Others have suffered serious psychological disorientation, some of whom have joined our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the asylum, and that is a fact. All these people deserve our attention. It will take some time to cure them and bring them back to lead normal lives again. Others can help us to attend to their physical needs, but only we can attend to their emotional and psychological needs.

Let us, therefore, welcome them with love. That way it will make the task of their rehabilitation and integration much easier. They should never be made to feel that somehow they are different and a community apart. We should not look upon these young men and women who have returned with suspicion and hostility as if they have done something wrong and terrible. Many of them left, not because they love the foreign lands that they went to, but because -- and let us have the courage to admit it -- because daily life became much near impossible and I am not saying it is any easier today. We got to a point where most people found it necessary to do something illegal or immoral to survive. Many of those who stayed here had to kill their conscience to survive in the manner they wanted to. These young men and women who left did not go away to amass fortunes; they went away simply because they were finding it impossible to live. It was in the pursuit of livlihood that they went.

Fortunately, that shameful period in our national lives has passed away, and little by little we are beginning to build the foundation on which different life and prosperity can be attained -- the foundation, that which some of us do not seem to understand. We have no wish, however, to indulge in public acrimony, but we know that many of these people who are now being accused of violating immigration requirements and abusing the hospitality of their host countries were actually lured, cajoled, encouraged in all manner of ways to leave this country by unscrupulous foreign employers.

We have even known of cases where false traveling documents were prepared by some of these unscrupulous employers to facilitate the departure of Ghanaians into the neighboring countries. We have no wish to tell a friendly, sovereign, neighboring country what it should do, but we would have hoped that the activities of these people would be checked first.

I have stressed several times that we do not question the right of any government to decide on who should live within its borders or the conditions under which they should live. That is the sovereign right of every country. Just as we expect foreign nationals resident in our country to obey all our laws and we in our turn are obliged to offer them and their legally acquired properties protection, we in the same way expect that our nationals resident in other countries should also be afforded these facilities. Our concern is not whether Ghanaian immigrants are allowed to live in foreign countries or not. No! Our concern is the humanitarian aspect of the deportations. It is in pursuit of this humanitarian concern coupled with our belief that every government is obligated to its nationals -- whether they are resident in the national territory or not -- that we acted so promptly.

It is also in recognition of this that we have refused right from the very beginning to treat the issue of the deportees as an individual matter between the affected persons and the Nigerian Government. In spite of our slender resources and not withstanding the cost involved we assembled a fleet of ships and airplanes to evacuate the deportees. When we found that the situation demanded it, we opened the border in spite of the threat of renewed smuglling activities. With the efforts we have made and are continuing to make, the evacuation program is going on smoothly and before long all deportees will come home. As I said earlier, the rehabilitation and integration of the returnees back into Ghanaian life and society is a very challenging task indeed.

We have therefore set up special agencies to deal with the problem. The first to be set up in the heat of the evacuation was the task force on evacuation and repatriation. It has already done excellent work in evacuating large numbers of people in a very short time and, in fact, rather efficiently. With the way things are going, it will soon come to an end. Another agency is the Relief and Supplies Management Committee. As its name indicates, it is responsible for the handling of all relief supplies entering into the country. In addition to these are the mobilization and rehabilitation committees. They are organized at both regional and district levels. On the shoulders of these committees falls the real work of rehabilitation. The main task is to work out concrete programs for providing job opportunities in given areas for the returnees as well the (?youth). At the apex of all these is the National Coordinating Committee. Its main task is to work our broad outlines of rehabilitation strategy and to oversee the entire rehabilitation effort.

We hope the returnees will cooperate with these efforts to make the program a success. We know that some of these returnees will have problems in adjusting easily to their families due to the way and manner in which they left and the way they conducted themselves there. I appeal to such families and parents to forget and to forgive and welcome such individuals back into the fold. In this way, they will be contributing to make the process of rehabilitation and integration a lot easier. Let me also take this opportunity to appeal to the returnees to cooperate with the agencies created for their own rehabilitation and to work hard to make the program a worthwhile and useful one. As they themselves have realized, this is the only country they have and they should work hard for it. By doing that they are working for themselves. We have had many occasions where Ghanaians do jobs outside which they would not otherwise want to do back at home here. Such negative attitudes have no place here now, not today. Let me also remind them that Ghana is striving for peace and stability and we shall brook no acts of violence, lawlessness, and hooliganism here.

This talk would not be complete without expressing our gratitude to our neighboring presidents of Togo and Benin for the mature and humanitarian concern which they have expressed for the welfare of the returnees. I am told they went to great lengths to provide food, water, and other facilities for them. They also provided them with safe conduct through their territories. Once again, on behalf of my country, I wish to say thank you. We are indeed very grateful for this. We also extend our gratitude to the international organizations and voluntary agencies like the Red Cross, the World Food Program, and other such bodies which out of humanitarian concern have extended much-needed help and support to the returnees before they even arrived on Ghana's soil. The Christian Council has also contributed immensely to this effort. We hope that we can continue to count on their help and support in this task of resettling these young men and women. We would also like to extend our thanks to those of our countrymen who have donated generously in money, time, or materials to assist in the daunting task of rehabilitating the deportees.

ACCRA ANNOUNCES MILITARY EXERCISE IN PROGRESS

AB141839 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Joint Army, Navy, and Air Force exercises are now going on at the Prampram area of the Accra Plains to test the combatreadiness and defense capabilities of the Ghana Armed Froces. The exercises, which started last Friday, are under the direction of the Army commander, Brigadier Arnold Quainoc. They follow earlier ones held towards the end of last year and they involve battle (?rules) and procedures. A number of Army units are taking part and they are being supported by airborne troops, Air Force helicopters, and the Ghana Navy.

A special feature of the exercises, which are code named "Exercise Bold Eagle," is the involvement of civilians in the first of a series of military and civilians defense operations. A number of miltiant canoe fishermen in the greater Accra area have been selected to participate in the exercises involving big landing of (?fleets).

GUINEA

SEKOU TOURE TO MAKE PRODUCE MARKETING PRIVATE

AB140635 Paris AFP in English 0357 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Dakar, Feb 14 (AFP) -- President Ahmed Sekou of Guinea Sunday announced the handing over of the marketing of produce exclusively to private enterprise, together with a series of complementary measures. The move, announced in a speech broadcast on radio Conakry, monitored here, follows poor results in the public sector last year. Mr Sekou Toure said that private businessmen willing to market "will be assured of state support from the moment they decide to give marketing the vigour which will spur on production." Private traders would have the monopoly of marketing for state enterprises, said the president, who was speaking at a meeting of the National Revolutionary Council, top body of Guinea's political party, the Democratic Party.

He also announced basic products price increases, a rise in traders' profit margins, the direction of all imported goods to traders in exchange for marketed products, and a ban on tractor and truck owners buying fuel or spare parts unless they market produce. Mr Sekou Toure said the moves were intended to boost trade, discourage speculation in such basic commodities as rice, and assure proper supply to the home market.

Mr Sekou Toure also accused, without naming them, certain diplomats in Conakry of working to devalue the local currency, the Syli, by creating a parallel market.

He said some diplomats paid their staff in alcohol which was re-sold at elevated prices, and threatened to close the embassy of any diplomats found responsible for such practice.

Earlier in the speech, the president expressed hope that a solution would soon be found to the deep crisis in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The authorities in Conakry are expected to host this year's annual OAU summit. Last year's meeting which was to have been held in Tripoli, Libya, never officially opened for lack of a quorum due to a boycott by several member states. Mr Sekou Toure also said Guinea would play an "effective and efficient" part in the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement due to open in New Delhi on March 7.

LIBERIA

AGRICULTURE MINISTER'S DEATH CONFIRMED

AB141618 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 1600 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] It has been finally confirmed officially that the minister of agriculture, Mr Alfred Fromoyan, has died. According to LBS [Liberian Broadcasting System] news, Minister Fromoyan died yesterday at the John F. Kennedy Hospital following a protracted illness. The agriculture minister, who had been in the hospital for some time, died from gout.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE: 83,000 NATIONALS RETURN FROM NIGERIA

AB111941 Paris AFP in French 1758 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Niamey, 11 Feb (AFP) -- President Seyni Kountche of Niger has said that his country has received about 83,000 of its nationals expelled from Nigeria and that an interministerial committee has been set up in order to coordinate government action for the settlement of these refugees. The Niger head of state made this statement when he returned from Kara, Togo, where he attended the Entente Council meeting with Presidents Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, and Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo.

In messages addressed on Friday to the Ivorian and Togolese presidents, Colonel Seyni Kountche wrote that the exchange of views by the Entente Council heads of state and the decisions made "testify to the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity" underlying the council's actions. "It is a new stage in the relations between our states," the Niger head of state added.

NIGERIA

REGISTRATION OF ALIENS BEGINS 14 FEBRUARY

AB141635 Lagos NAN in English 1550 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, Feb. 14 (NAN) -- The registration of foreign nationals who entered the country legally began today at the immigration headquarters at Alagbon Close Ikoyi. Sources close to the headquarters told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that some of the aliens who came to register did not possess valid documents required of them.

Efforts have the numbers of those registered so far was unsuccessful as the officials involved in the registration refused to entertain press interviews while press cameramen were not allowed to take photographs. [sentence as received]

An official of the department said that those who already had resident permits and were employed by companies would only need letters of introduction from their employers while those without resident permits but employed by any government or parastatals should produce letters of recommendation from their employers.

Other registration centers are located at immigration offices in Lagos, Ikeja, Apapa, and Tin Can island.

100 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ROUNDED UP IN OYO

AB120910 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] About 100 illegal immigrants in Oyo state were rounded up and deported within the last week. The deportation was carried out by the officials of the Immigration Department.

DEPARTURE OF ALIENS OPENS 5,000 PORT JOBS

AB110847 Lagos NAN in English 0822 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, Feb 10 (NAN) -- Nigerians have taken over more than 5,000 jobs which became vacant in all the country's ports following the exit of illegal immigrants, the president of the Dockworkers Union of Nigeria, Joshua Ogunleye, said today in Lagos.

Mr Ogunleye told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the explusion order was a "very good opportunity" for the over 4,000 Nigerians displaced by the closure of private jetties at the ports to regain their jobs. He said that the secretariat of the union was finding it increasingly difficult to secure alternative jobs for the retrenched union members "until the explusion order came."

Mr Ogunleye urged members of the union to work to justify their monthly salaries.

POLICE MOVE IN, ORDER UNIVERSITY VACATED

AB111648 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Anti-riot policemen have now been drafted to the University of Ibadan to prevent further violence following last Wednesday's students violent demonstration. Our correspondent reported that although the atmosphere at the campus was calm, the university authority has requested the presence of the police to ensure that there will be no more violence. In a statement, the police called on the students to vacate the campus immediately. Our correspondent also gathered that the vice chancellor, Professor (Olajuana Olaide), has been advised to keep out of public places for security reasons.

ANGOLA

GOVERNMENT REPORTS KILLING 21 UNITA MEMBERS

AB111721 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Text] Luanda, Feb. 11 (AFP) -- Angolan troops killed 21 "counter-revolutionaries" of the rebel UNITA guerrilla group in the central province of Huambo recently, the Angolan news agency ANGOP reported today. It quoted the Fourth Military Region command as saying that the party of guerrillas had been "neutralised" in Alto Hama, about 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Huambo city.

The Angolan troops had discovered South African-made weapons, grenades, and ammunition, ANGOP said.

LESOTHO

GOVERNMENT HOLDS RSA REPSONSIBLE FOR BLAST

MB141234 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] A Lesotho Government spokesman has today stated that the Lesotho Government holds South Africa directly responsible for the explosion which caused extensive damage to their Caltex depot in Maseru last night. The depot was completely burned down, and there was slight damage to the nearby Mobil depot. An exploding tank landed on the roof of the Lesotho steel products building, causing extensive damage to the property.

Before the explosion, a helicopter similar to those used during the December raid by South African soldiers was seen dropping two bombs at the depot. As the fierce fire continued burning, the plane continued hovering around the area, and a number of vehicles were seen parked across the border on South African farmlands opposite the area.

The petrol depot, like the water reservoir, is at (?Sekamaneng) industrial area, and near the Lerotholi Politechnique, which was sabotaged by the enemy in the past few days, and is situated on the Caladon River forming the border with the Republic of South Afirca.

Commenting on the explosion, the government spokesman said that it was clear that the enemy is now concentrating on economic targets, like it is doing in Angola and Mozambique. The spokesman said these attacks are meant to frustrate initiatives by the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference [SADCC] to help in economic development of member states. These acts of sabotage, the spokesman added, are a continuation of efforts to embarrass member states of the SADCC, as happened when the enemy bombed the reservoir at the Lesotho national abattoir during the SADCC meeting in Maseru.

Damage resulting from last night's attack is estimated at more than 50 thousand Maluti. No casualties have been reported, and police are investigating.

Sends Protest Note

MB150757 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho has sent a protest note to the South African Government following attacks on and damage to petrol depots in Maseru at 2330 on Sunday night.

The protest note said prior to the explosion an aircraft was seen overflying the scene of the attack and dropping bombs on the depots. As a flare lit the surrounding area, a number of vehicles were seen on the ridge of the South African side. The aircraft continued to circle the depots as they burnt. It said contrary to what Radio Lesotho announced, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, SABC, reported yesterday that the saboteurs were members of the Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] and thus deliberately misquoting Radio Lesotho which had made no mention of the LLA. This misquoting was made in order to cover up the South African involvement in this act.

Lesotho has always desired to live in peace with South Africa and to maintain good neighborly relations. It is regretted that South Africa has embarked on a policy of destabilization of Lesotho and a destruction of Lesotho's (fledgling) economy. It is hoped that South Africa will in future desist from this type of act and develop peaceful coexistence with Lesotho. The protest note stated that Lesotho puts a blame for this attack squarely on South Africa and demands compensation for the damage caused.

Heads of diplomatic missions resident in Maseru were yesterday summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be briefed by the minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable Sidi Molapo, on the unwarranted attack by South Africa on Lesotho.

NAMIBIA

WINDHOEK NEWSPAPER SUSPENDED FOR CONTEMPT

MB141220 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] A Windhoek newspaper had been suspended. The newspaper DIE SUIDWESTER has been suspended for 3 months by the Newspaper Press Union [NPU]. A statement released by the NPU in Johannesburg says the action follows the publication of comment by the newspaper on an adjudication by the Press Council against the newspaper. The NPU considers the comment contemptuous of the Press Council.

SOUTH AFRICA

GOVERNMENT REJECTS LESOTHO'S CLAIMS ON BLAST

MB150603 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs and Information has rejected claims by Lesotho that saboteurs from South Africa were responsible for Sunday night's explosion in Maseru. One of the three main fuel storage depots in the capital's industrial area was destroyed in the explosion.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information told our political correspondent that South Africa objected to the unfounded allegations made about the South African Government and claims designed to conceal the critical domestic situation in Lesotho. The department also referred to a protest note in this connection sent to South Africa by Lesotho in which Lesotho protested about news reports carried by the South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC] on the sabotage attack. In the note Lesotho said that the SABC had stated the opposite of reports carried by Radio Lesotho, which said that South Africa was responsible for the attack. It said the SABC had said that the Lesotho Liberation Army, the military wing of the Basutoland Congress Party, had been responsible for the attack. In South Africa's reply sent to Lesotho by the minister of foreign affairs, it said that the South African Government is not responsible for news items carried by the SABC. If the Lesotho Government believes that the SABC were broadcasting incorrect reports it was free to take up the matter with the SABC management.

PAPER: LABOR PARTY TO FORM 'MILITARY WING'

MB140930 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 14 Feb 83 p 1

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Text] The Labour Party [LP] is forming a "military wing" to deal with opponents who disrupt its meetings, Mr Jac Rabie, Transvaal LP leader, told cheering party supporters at Eldarado Park yesterday. His announcement came after police had ejected hostile hecklers following an outbreak of fist fights and hurling of chairs at the start of the meeting. As he spoke police outside the hall kept chanting demonstrators at bay by firing teargas at them when they got too close or too threatening. Police were at the hall before the start of the meeting.

The meeting was the last one in the week-long bid by the LP leader, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, to win backing in the Transvaal for the LP decision to participate in the new three-chamber Parliament. Within minutes of people taking their seats in the hall, hecklers drowned out the chairman, Mr Don Mateman and unfurled banners charging the LP with accepting apartheid and Mr Hendrickse of "selling out" the Coloured people. Violence broke out as pro and anti-LP factions advanced on one another and fierce argument led to punches being traded and chairs being thrown trhough the air. Police intervened, first using teargas to break up the fighting and then helping to eject the hecklers. Later Mr Rabie told an audience of about 150 people "the Labour Party is forming a military wing to deal with them."

Labelling the hecklers boycotters who were being used by "communists" he accused them of being responsible for the National Party election victory in 1948 and its subsequent decision in 1956 to remove Coloured voters in the Cape from the common roll. He said Coloured voters held the balance of power in 12 seats, but the boycotters helped the NP to a narrow victory of 5 seats by staying away from the polls. Mr Miley Richards, deputy national leader of the LP, said of the hecklers: "The Labour Party used to use some of the tactics employed by these people. One of them is slogan shouting. But we have grown out of it."

Referring to allegations that the LP had deserted Africans, Mr Mateman said: "They do not need our leadership. The LP has reached the stage where it must fight for its own people".

With the exception of Mr Hendrickse's address, a Coloureds-on-their-own theme was an element in all speeches from the platform.

Mr Hendrickse reiterated the LP's declared commitment to full political participation for all South Africans and re-emphasized its rejection of the prime minister's "guidelines" for the new tricameral Parliament as an ultimate solution. He said the new parliamentary system was defective because it excluded the African majority and "entrenched ethnicity", but the LP believed it could be used as a platform for further change.

A vote of confidence in the LP leadership was carried overwhelmingly by the 150 people who remained behind after the expulsion of the hecklers.

Meetings Will Not Be Publicized

MB150857 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] Labor Party meetings in Natal and the Orange Free State will not be publicized. This has been announced by the party's national chair, David Curry.

Curry said that the decision has been taken to give what he has called troublemakers less time to organize themselves. Curry has also denied that the party will form a military wing to counter disruption and violence at its public meetings.

SWAZILAND

PARLIAMENT REPORTEDLY SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY

MB150835 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 15 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Swaziland's prime minister, Prince Mabandla Dlamini, has suspended Parliament indefinitely. The decision comes amid rumours of an attempted palace coup 10 days ago against Prince Mabandla, which was reportedly foiled by loyal Swazi police. Prince Mabandla has publicly denied reports of a coup bid, but the suspension of Parliament and his last-minute cancellation of a scheduled appearance at a major economic development conference in Mbabane have fuelled speculation.

The RAND DAILY MAIL confirmed yesterday that a senior minister, Senator Polycarp Dlamini, has resisted moves for his appointment as ambassador to the United States. Senator Dlamini, one of the few ministers to have survived all cabinet reshuffles since Swaziland's independence in 1968, is reported to be opposed to Prince Mabandla. His proposed U.S. appointment was interpreted as an attempt to weaken the anti-Mabandla faction, which is said to include the foreign minister, Mr R.V. Dlamini, Dr George Msibi of the Supreme National Council and Swaziland's roving ambassador, Dr Simon Nxumalo.

The MAIL was unable to contact the prime minister yesterday for comment -- but it was understood he may take firm action to secure his position.

ZIMBABWE

CONFESSIONS OF ALLEGED RSA SPIES RELEASED

MB131227 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] The Zimbabwean minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr Munangagwa, has released what he says are confessions made by two men alleged to have spied for South Africa.

Speaking in Harare, Mr Munangagwa said the confessions were written in their own handwriting. The two, 30 year-old Mr Philip Hartleybury and 27-year-old Mr Colin Evans, were acquitted earlier this month on charges under the Official Secrets Act and of possessing arms of war. They were immediately redetained under emergency powers regulations. According to the minister the confessions recorded that the two men were expected to infilitrate all intelligence services in Zimbabwe, including the central intelligence organization, the Army, airforce and the police.